

IRELAND'S HOMES INTERIORS & LIVING

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Living Room
SPECIAL

.....
PACKED WITH STYLISH
& FUNCTIONAL
FURNISHINGS

50

pages of readers'
homes & kitchens

Dublin
Meath
Lisburn

**OPEN-PLAN
KITCHENS**
SPACIOUS LIVING

Gardening
Low Maintenance Gardens

Cookery
Livestock Meat Commission II

Travel
Waterford & Sicily

September 2015

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**FREE SINK
BASE CABINET OFFER***





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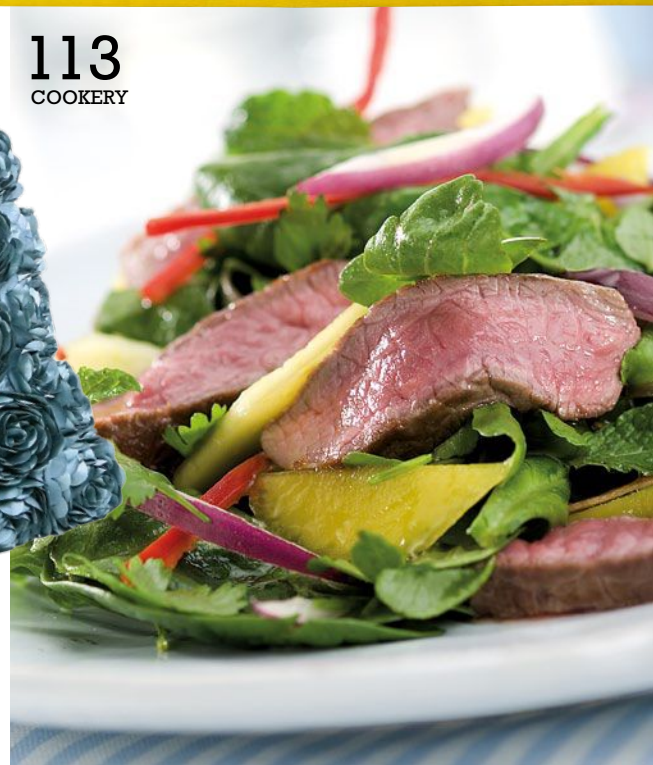
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COMPETITION WINNERS FROM THE JULY 2015 ISSUE

1 READER WINS A COPPER CRACKLED PRINT

CUSHION BY AOIFE MULLANE. TOTAL €100.

Marquerite Gahan, Stillorgan.

1 READER WINS A THREE NIGHT BREAK AT THE TULLYMURRY HOUSE, DONAGHMORE.

TOTAL €850/€1,200.

Nancy Kennedy, Oranmore.

5 READERS EACH WIN A FAMILY DAY PASS FOR THE NATIONAL TRUST. TOTAL £100.

Bernie O'Kane, Ballymena;

Sean Byrne, Warrenpoint;

Roger Ford, Belfast;

Ramona Arguelles Menendez, Malahide;

Dolores Hicks, Drogheda.

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IRELAND'S HOMES INTERIORS & LIVING

SEPTEMBER 2015
NO 243



As much as we don't want to think about it, we are heading towards the end of the summer. Kids will be going back to school, and the days will be getting chillier – although that is debatable when considering our Irish summers! In our September issue we have our living room special, which showcases lots of lovely seating options with sofas and armchairs, we also look at functional coffee tables with storage, advise on different flooring and lighting options, accessories

for your living space and lovely fragrances that will surely help you relax. We move from the living room to a different living area of sorts; open-plan living. We look at this functional living, dining, kitchen area within the home while showcasing some stunning spaces by a few of the best designers around Ireland.

Heading towards the Autumn/Winter season we take a look at some of the trends you can expect to see over the coming months, from amber to shades of grey and the new trend of 'up-and-up cycling'!

Our readers' homes this issue take us to Andrew and Emma's Lisburn abode Little Wood; a beautifully built and furnished forever-home with lots of country charm. Further south we visit Ursula's redbrick Edwardian home in Dublin that she fell in love with almost instantly, the beautiful ceilings sealing the deal. June's masterfully restored getaway in Co. Meath went from hay-store to dream home, and what a stunning job she has done in bringing it back to life!

For our reader's kitchen we return to Lisburn to Zara and Michael's beautiful open-plan space designed by Beechview Interiors, surrounded by rural panoramic views.

Speaking of the kitchen, our cookery pages this issue feature mouthwatering beef and lamb recipes from Livestock Meat Commission Northern Ireland, so why not make a meal of it and cook up a treat.

In our travel features this issue we visit Waterford, home to stunning scenery and historical sites. Further afield we take in the sites and sounds of the Italian island of Sicily.

As always, if you have a home, or know of someone who has a home, that you would like to see featured in the magazine contact editorial on 028 9147 3979 or email editorial@ihil.net

Mike Keenan

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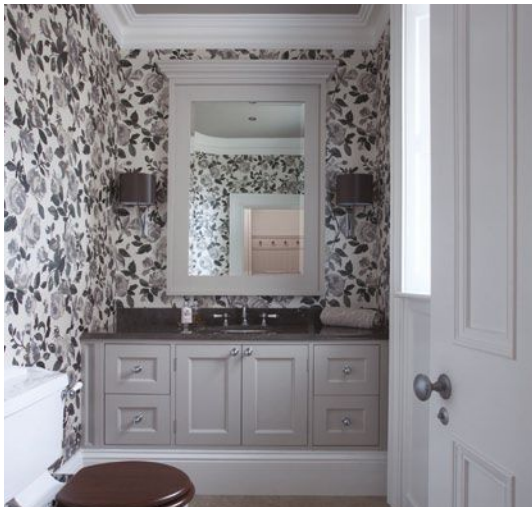
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homestyle

An inspirational selection of the latest traditional and contemporary furniture, fabric and accessories for your home.

Wonderwall

Isabella orange matt wallpaper from **Digitex Home**. Simply measure your walls and add as many panels as you need to basket. Each panel is 62.5cm wide x 300cm high. £30. Phone 0161 873 8891. www.DigetexHome.co.uk



Good Dog

Red Rover cushion from **Hunkydory Home**. Featuring cute little sausage dogs against a bright red background. The fabric is a lovely soft corduroy. £30. Phone 019 1645 4004. www.hunkydoryhome.co.uk

Join the Club
The gorgeous Caffè Club collection from Villeroy & Boch at **The OUTLET**, Banbridge. Prices from £4.83. Phone 028 4062 5609. www.the-outlet.co.uk

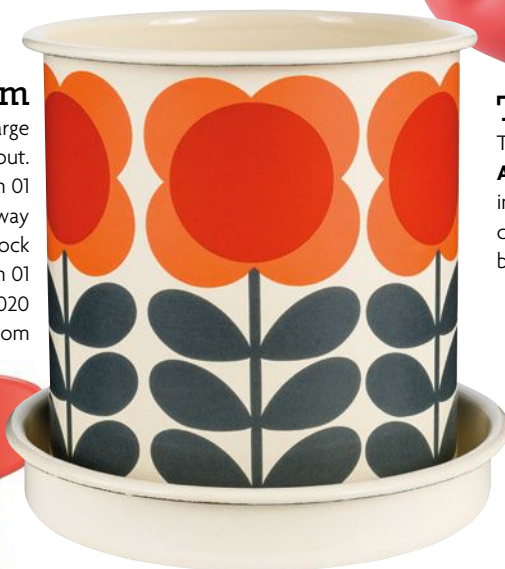


Top Tea

The Fritz porcelain teapot from **Alison Appleton Ltd**, with its fine stainless steel infuser and flip lid is made for one to two people. Fritz comes in five different colours: red, white, yellow, grey and blue. £22. Phone 0151 709 1188. www.alisonappleton.com

Retro Charm

Orla Kiely big spot flower stem large plant pot. Great for use inside or out. £27.95 Phone Brown Thomas, Dublin 01 6056666; Cork 021 4805555 and Galway 091 565254 and Lost Weekend, Blackrock 01 2755818; The Orchard, Dublin 01 6288903. For further stockists phone 020 7720 1117 or visit www.orlakiely.com



Rad Rug

Fay orange rug from **Living It Up**. With a retro inspired boldness. The zigzag effect is soft yet the addition of fresh colour creates an eye catching, eclectic style. £249. www.livingitup.co.uk



Scandi Style

Fjord Chairs in orange from **Made.com**. These dining chairs pair clean lines with a sleek finish for a contemporary feel. £99. Phone 0845 557 6888. www.made.com



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Sunny Delight

Fabric from the Newton collection by **Casedeco**. Price on request. For Irish stockists phone 08443 690 102 UK and 0818 200 056 ROI. www.casadeco.com

Mellow Yellow

Yellow side table **BOQA** edited by and designed by François Bazenan. Price on request. www.boqa.fr/en/



Side Order

Novamobili reverse sideboard in oca yellow from **Go Modern Furniture**. The Reverse Medium Sideboard has a distinct 50s flavour with alternate cupboards and open shelving in fun combinations of colour & finish. £930. Phone 020 7731 9540. www.gomodern.co.uk

Yellow Royalty

Queen Bee yellow screen print from **Gift Wrapped & Gorgeous**. £25. www.giftwrappedandgorgeous.com



Top Toaster

The Regent Toaster; the ultimate vintage, retro and stylish item for your kitchen. Completed with a sunny, vibrant traffic yellow finish. £190. Available from **Red Candy**. Phone 012 1224 7728. www.redcandy.co.uk

It Sucks!

Yellow paper straws from **Candle & cake Ltd**. £3.49. www.candleandcake.co.uk





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Fly Me to the Moon

Fly Me Purple Chair by Martela and available from **Wharfside**. It is equipped with an automatic spring back mechanism. £1,440. www.wharfside.co.uk



Lush Lamp

Truman wall light from the Truman Collection. Available in a range of bold colours. £39. Available from **Made.com**. Phone 0845 557 6888. www.made.com



What a Wall

Dip-Dye Ombre Purple Wallpaper from **Decor Wallpaper**. £40 per roll. Phone 0845 056 5435. www.decorwallpaper.com



C'est Chic

Pitted purple wooden French chest from **Out There Interiors**. Price on request. Phone 020 8099 7443. www.outthereinteriors.com



Style Statement

Tall Patina vase in purple from **Zaliwana Accessories**. These elegant glass vases speak for themselves, with or without flowers. £7.20. www.zaliwanaaccessories.co.uk



Sweet Blossom

Jo Malone Plum Blossom Cologne. £86. www.jomalone.co.uk



Perfect Print

PAT Digi print purple floral cushion from **House of Fraser**. £40. Euro price on request. Phone Belfast 0844 8003705, Dundrum 01 2991400. www.houseoffraser.co.uk



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 Harry Blacks Décor Centre – Dungannon Jenny Bond Interiors – Lisburn Road, Belfast Omagh Home Décor Centre – Omagh



Tidy Up

Green wooden garden tidy with six internal compartments, perfect for holding the necessary tools and string for tidying the garden. Available from **Dotcomgiftshop**. £24.95 www.dotcomgiftshop.com



Super Fly

Kartell Fly Pendant Light in yellow. This ceiling light is a simple, minimalistic light that has become a design classic.

Designed by Ferruccio Laviani, the transparent material and the cut off at the bottom of the pendant light ensure this light creates a stunning visual effect. £171. Euro price on request. Phone Willie Duggan Lighting, Kilkenny 056 7764308 or visit www.kartell.it for further Irish stockists.

Cushy Little Number

Geo cushion in green from **Oliver Bonas**. £32. Phone 020 8974 0110. www.oliverbonas.com



Green Team

Green tea cup and saucer inspired by vintage tea sets. Finished with hand painted 18 carat gold. Available from **In-Spaces**. £80. Phone 020 7580 1990. www.in-spaces.com



Trendy Tulip

Green tulip tray from **Skandihome**. Individually hand-made from the finest Scandinavian birch wood in the South of Sweden. Each tray is made from a single sheet of birch providing a high quality finish and longevity of use. Being dishwasher safe, they are not only practical but will add a splash of fresh Scandinavian colour to your kitchen. £29. www.skandihome.com

Wooden You Know It

Wooden rectangular wall hook from **Furnish**. Lovingly crafted from wood, this sustainable product is finished with eco water based paint and varnish. They come ready to use with a screw fixed at the back for easy wall or shelf insertion. Dx5.5cm, Wx7cm, Hx7cm. £15. www.furnish.co.uk



AWARD WINNING DESIGN



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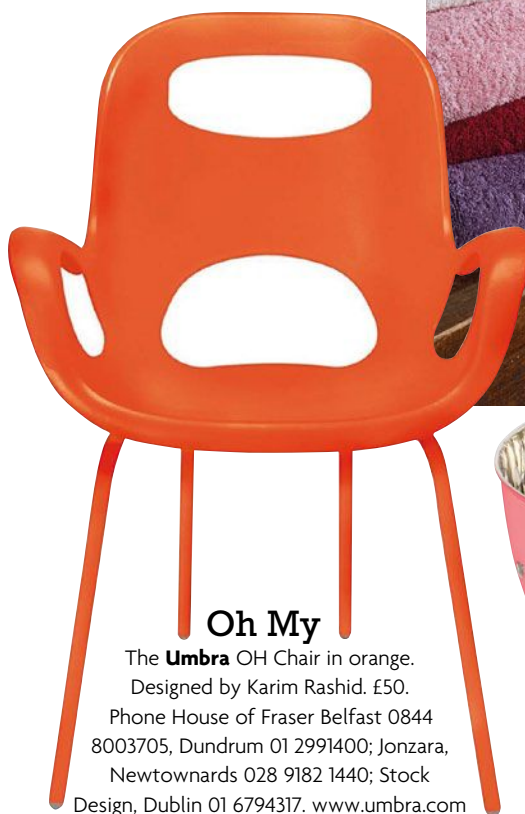
Stacks of Colour

Extensive range of towels
from Christy at **The OUTLET**,
Banbridge. Phone 028 4062 7817.
www.the-outlet.co.uk



Cool Cola

Newgate cola bottle wall clock.
The 45cm timepiece is made from
sturdy wood, which lends itself to the
vintage-style advertising 'Cool Cola'
typography, making it a charismatic
addition to any home. £32. Phone
Curio Interiors Ltd, Belfast 028 9033
9905 or visit www.newgateclocks.com
for further Irish stockists.



Oh My

The **Umbra** OH Chair in orange.
Designed by Karim Rashid. £50.
Phone House of Fraser Belfast 0844
8003705, Dundrum 01 2991400; Jonzara,
Newtownards 028 9182 1440; Stock
Design, Dublin 01 6794317. www.umbra.com



Classy Colander

The **Savora** Colander is elegantly designed and boasts a
striking, polished stainless steel body with a premium,
baked-on finish. The striking design is perfect for food
preparation or as a centrepiece. £24.99. Available from
Kitchen Craft. www.kitchencraft.co.uk



Chop Chop

Citrus Bird orange and lemon glass chopping board from
Beyond the Fridge. With a textured surface for safety when
chopping and rubber pads on the bottom to prevent slipping.
£14. Phone 0845 528 1080. www.beyondthefridge.co.uk



Funky Forest

Orange Mystical Forest
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This fresh double sided
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Christy opens a new store at The OUTLET, Banbridge

The luxury Christy brand opens its only outlet store in Northern Ireland at The OUTLET, Banbridge. Introducing a stylish range of bathroom towels and bedlinen with savings of up to 70 per cent off the RRP across the store, all with the quality that you'd expect from the Christy brand. Store Manager, Louise Stevenson said, 'I am so very excited to be a part of this brand and I am looking forward to making it a huge success. Christy offers a stunning product range at incredibly reasonable prices. With new stock arriving on a regular basis, we are sure to have something to offer every taste. Friendly and helpful staff are always here to answer any questions and give assistance. We look forward to seeing you all soon.' The new store has created five new jobs in retail and adds to the growing homewares offering at The OUTLET. **Phone Banbridge 028 4062 7817. www.the-outlet.co.uk**



Hotpoint wins at Housebuilder Product Awards



L-R: BEN ROSKOW, PUBLISHING DIRECTOR, HOUSEBUILDER MEDIA LTD; PHILIP SLATER, CHANNEL MANAGER, CONTRACT, FOR HOTPOINT & HENRY BLOFELD OBE, CRICKET COMMENTATOR.

Hotpoint has won 'Best Kitchens And Bathrooms Product' for its Open Space oven at the Housebuilder Product Awards 2015. The Housebuilder Product Awards set out to recognise and reward excellence in the UK housebuilding industry. The winners were announced at a gala lunch at Edgbaston Stadium on Thursday 25th June, hosted by renowned cricket commentator, Henry Blofeld OBE. Hotpoint came up against some strong competition in its category but the

Open Space oven was awarded the title of winner by a collection of high-profile judges. The Hotpoint Open Space oven boasts a generous 77-litre capacity, offering 20 percent more space than a traditional single oven, whilst still retaining a standard single oven dimension. Additionally, the oven can be split into two thanks to a clever insulating divider, allowing the consumer to cook at two different temperatures at the same time for maximum flexibility. **www.hotpoint.co.uk**

Design Inspiration by Interior360

Belfast based company Interior360 has undergone a total brand review. Specialising in luxury, bespoke, handpainted, traditional furniture and German, sleek, minimalist kitchens, Interior 360 strive to create the perfect space to meet, dine and socialise. Philip Millar, an architectural graduate, heads up their kitchen design team where the quality and level of presentation is unrivaled. 'Truly understanding what our clients need and want is vital to long-term success and fulfilling a specific brief, can be produced in such a way as to give years of enjoyment. It's about lifestyle requirements, clients' tastes, the interior style and the architectural dimensions of their property and how feasible it is to produce,' says Philip. With an eye on traditional kitchens their design team have over 20 years of experience in designing traditional, high end, elegant kitchens. Innovation and focus on the design of the product, its appearance and functionality are paramount. The luxury, bespoke handpainted furniture exudes refined quality and its unique



finish is the main reason for Interior360's growing market position. Originally specialising in contemporary German kitchens, Interior360 continue to design modern kitchens which incorporate the latest interior design trends and knowledge of perfect ergonomics. The company has recently implemented a new visual identity, rolling out a new website, a presence across all social media platforms and is currently extending

their showroom. 'As our level of prominence has increased at the top end of luxury kitchens we felt that by investing in the future of our showroom, branding and website, it would reflect the superlative service, ultimate kitchens and an ability to accommodate all price ranges. Interior360 are very excited about going forward,' adds Philip. **Phone Belfast 028 9070 9360. www.interior360.com**

KITCHENS AND LIVING SPACES



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Major Rebrand & Showroom Developments at Canavan Interiors



Ardboe based company Canavan Interiors has undergone a total brand review following a period of expansion for the business, while also further extending their showroom, including a new design and development studio. The company has implemented a new visual identity, tagline and online presence to support its current position in the marketplace, future plans, evolution and growth. A new logo and stripped back corporate colours have been implemented, bringing an increased level of style and sophistication to the company image. Going forward, 'Luxury Kitchens & Fine

fitted Furniture' will serve as both Canavan Interiors purpose and its tagline, reflecting the face that the company are increasingly asked to design and create furniture for the entire home - bathrooms, bedrooms, dressing rooms and other furniture, alongside their high end kitchens. The rebrand will roll out across all media's from May 2015, while a new website has been simultaneously launched in order to further increase the presence of the company. Implementation of strategies across social media platforms with a cohesive brand image maintained throughout will also form part

of the new look Canavan Interiors. Speaking, Jason Canavan said, 'As our level of prominence increased at the top end of the kitchen and luxury furniture market in Ireland and the UK, we felt it was imperative that our brand identity reflected the exceptional level of product we create for our customers. Taking inspiration from global companies across the interiors, fashion, beauty and luxury product industries during the rebranding process, we now have an identity which reinforces the level of excellence we produce. **Phone Dungannon 028 8673 6439. www.canavaninteriors.co.uk**

Triton Aspirante: Great Design at a Great Price



Whether you're upgrading your shower or looking for inspiration for a whole new look for your bathroom, the ultra clean lines and minimalist styling of the Triton Aspirante could be for you. Featuring a unique curved front the slimline, compact finish makes the shower look like it floats on your tiles. Choose from six chic high gloss or matt finishes for a look that works perfectly with your colour scheme or even adds a touch of bold contrast. We love the highly polished black and white gloss finishes which will complement any colour scheme. For a contemporary industrial look, try the sleek metallic look of gun metal or brushed steel, while the striking Black Pearl or Riviera Sands finishes offer a more natural stone textured look. The luxury designer feel extends to the controls too and for the safety conscious, all models have an integrated phased shutdown system which makes the range ideal for use by all the family, as the system flushes out all remaining hot water so there are no nasty surprises for the next user. The range is priced from €300 to €350 depending on finish and kW size. **www.tritonshowers.ie**

The Cosentino Design Challenge 2015

The Cosentino Design Challenge 2015 is a competition for design, architecture, interior design students or similar areas of knowledge anywhere in the world. It aims to foster the talent of students, promoting research into the different conceptual approaches to the layout of spaces, materials and the construction systems that define them, using materials made by the Cosentino Group. This year's competition received a total of 278 applications. The applications received included students from the official partner schools of the Cosentino Design Challenge, as well as students from other design or architecture schools around the world. The competition's verdict took place in Granada's (Spain) Cosentino Centre and all of the winners can now be viewed online at **www.cosentinodesignchallenge.org**

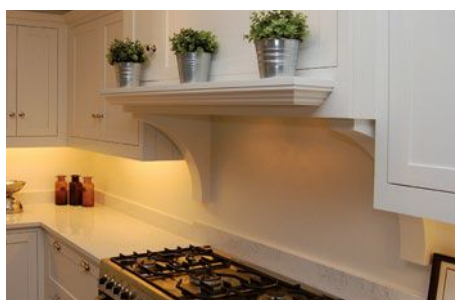
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Create the Style...

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Fresh Florals

Welcome the summertime into your bedroom with this hand drawn floral from **Bedeck** in statement brights. The lively print sits in contrast to the simple stripe that can be found on the reverse of this high quality cotton bed linen. Double duvet cover, £65/€80; Oxford pillowcase, £12/€15; Housewife pillowcase, £10/€13; Moss stitch pale blue cushion, £35/€45 and Moss stitch pale blue throw, £85/€105. For your local Irish stockist phone 0845 603 0861. www.bedeck.com



...in the bedroom



Top Throw

Knitted cotton smoky blue throw from The Secret **Linen Store**. Available in three colours, charcoal, blue or grey. £69. www.secretlinenstore.com



Wonder Wire

This cute little metal wire mesh basket from **Boutique Provencale** can be used for storing eggs on the kitchen worktop or alternatively will work well as a small bread basket to bring some authentic French country style to the dining table. The wooden handle adds a nice rustic touch. It measures 20cm long x 14cm wide x 17cm high (to top of handle). £9.50. Phone 0800 954 0232. www.boutiqueprovencale.co.uk



Nordic Style

Nordic stool from **Luku Home**. It comes painted white, with the natural wood exposed at the bottom of the legs. £85. www.lukuhome.com



Blue Hue

Original Style Floral Trellis blue and white ceramic wall tiles from the Tapestry Collection by Original Style at **Ceramica**. Available individually, £2.95 each. Phone Ceramica, Bangor 028 9127 1227. www.ceramicaetc.co.uk



Funky Florals

Floral brights cushion from **Red Lily** with a vibrant watercolour print. Includes a duck down pad. 40cm x 40cm. £27.75 Phone 012 0686 4260. www.redlilly.co.uk



Create the Style ...

This modern bathroom shines bright while the contrasting accessories bring a further contemporary feel.



Clean Lines

Element from **Roca** is both modern and functional, with compact, clean and simple pieces. Designed around the shape of a prism, the collection features decidedly chunky pieces for a contemporary finish. The collection includes the Element one-piece bath, £2,992/€4,222; countertop basin, £490/€691; floor standing bidet, £411/€580 and the Element back to wall WC, £547/€771. For stockists phone NI 01530 830080 and ROI 045 883316. www.uk.roca.com

...in the bathroom

Mirror Mirror

Duravit New Vero illuminated vanity in white. The furniture has a distinctive design with vertical handles, which contrast with the horizontal grain of the five wood finishes. Includes vanity units with LED illumination, tall cabinets including a mirrored door option, mirrors with shelves and LED illumination, consoles with a mix of open shelves edged in chrome and drawers for useful storage. Price on request. Phone Beggs & Partners Ballymena 028 2564 5121; Belfast 028 9023 5791; Lisburn 028 9262 1133; Maghera 028 7964 5599; Newtownards 028 9182 6680 & Portadown 028 3839 2000. www.beggsandpartners.com www.duravit.co.uk



Serve it Up

Brushed stainless steel contrasts beautifully with black glass to create this sleek Obsidian tray from **In-Spaces**. Practical and functional the beauty lies in the simplicity. When left on display it also makes a striking centrepiece. £90. Phone 020 7580 1990. www.in-spaces.com

Top Towel

Aire Bathroom towel collection from **Made.com** in slate grey. It's woven cotton with yarns have no twist, which absorb water fast. £34. Phone 0845 557 6888. www.made.com



Good for the Sole

North Beach porcelain replica-marble 59.5cm x 59.5cm tiles from **Fired Earth** shown here in Montgomery. £99.29/€122.12 per m². Phone Belfast 028 9023 8000 and Dun Laoghaire 01 6636160. www.firedearth.com



Seasonal Trends

With the Autumn/Winter season fast approaching, check out what's new and what is here to stay!

AMBER ALERT

This strong and vibrant colour adds character and drama to your interiors and will be seen coming through in the autumn/winter season. You can add amber accessories to a neutral backdrop or go for a striking look and colour a feature wall.

Starrett two seater sofa in Ganges from **Sofa.com**. £1,010. www.sofa.com

Colours at **B&Q**, one surface mat paint in Pumpkin. £19.84. www.diy.com

Christy Supreme paprika towels. £3.50-£30. www.christy-towels.com



WHITE AND GREY

A very prominent trend carrying through is a crisp white background with various shades of grey, and vice versa. The point being, these pair make a great match for the coming season. These colours hold a great foundation for a Scandinavian look, that has been popular in the past and continues to be so, but it doesn't have to be a cold look.

Little Greene paints. £37 for 2.5L absolute matt emulsion, £43 for 2.5L intelligent matt emulsion and £53 for 2.5L intelligent eggshell. www.littlegreene.com

NEW AND UNIQUE

Forget up-cycling, up-and-up cycling is the way everyone is now heading. Adding a personal touch to old furniture has been all the rage over the past year, but now people are moving on from this and buying new budget furniture and transforming it into a unique piece. Following a study of 1,000 households, Mark Kelly, Marketing Manager of Furniture123.co.uk commented on the trend,

'Buying statement furniture can often be very expensive, and larger pieces such as wardrobes or beds are hard to find within the average UK adult's price range. The up and up cycling trend allows those who are looking for something different to create their own, unique style within their homes which is still good quality without breaking the bank.'

Search online for plenty of ideas and tutorials.



Up & Up Cycling.
www.furniture123.co.uk

CHALKY TOUCH

Adding a chalk finish to furniture, surfaces and now walls, has been growing in popularity and this trend is set to continue through to the autumn/winter season, with lots of autumnal shades being added to the existing shades. The best thing about working with this paint is that it is so easy to use; you can use it on unprepared surfaces due to its strong staying power, it dries quickly, you can mix it to create your own shades and it makes for a beautiful matt finish. You can also create paint effects easily by diluting the paint with water to create a washed look, or with the help of sandpaper to create the popular distressed look.



Napoleonic blue decorative Chalk Paint™ by **Annie Sloan**. £18.95/€27 per Litre.
www.anniesloan.com



PRETTY WATER COLOURS

Water colour effect is a fresh trend coming through, not only in artwork but in fabrics and wallpapers. You will find lots of cushions and bed linens with this effect and it is the perfect way to add some artistic flair to the home without having to lift a paintbrush yourself.

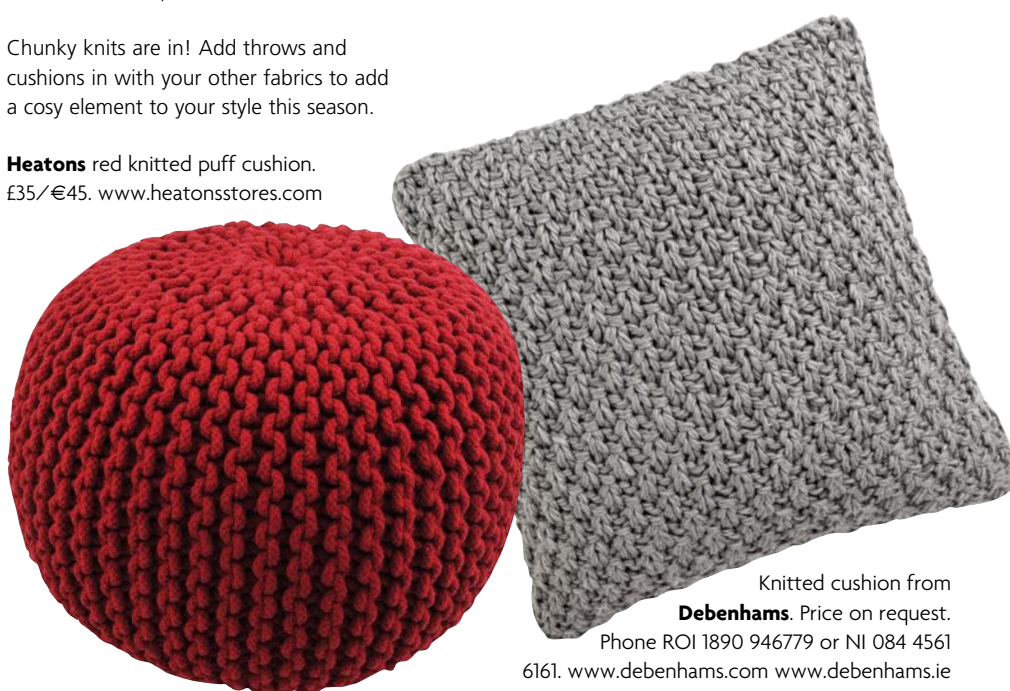
Houseology Nevis Bluebellgrey cushion with pom poms. £185. www.occa-home.co.uk



KNIT ONE, PURL ONE

Chunky knits are in! Add throws and cushions in with your other fabrics to add a cosy element to your style this season.

Heatons red knitted puff cushion. £35/€45. www.heatonsstores.com



Knitted cushion from **Debenhams**. Price on request.
Phone ROI 1890 946779 or NI 084 4561 6161. www.debenhams.com www.debenhams.ie



in the Know

Patricia McGinnis from Maven introduces you to more of her interior finds and ideas.



Expert Tip:

To give your space fresh perspective and to keep it interesting, don't be shy about moving things around. Keep artwork on narrow shelves so that you can easily move it. Rearrange your furniture. Keep adding things and taking others away - you don't have to get rid of them, just move them to another room or area. I'm forever moving plants and trinkets around and creating new and interesting vignettes around my home.

MUST HAVE!

A posy from 'best buds belfast'. Floral enthusiast Caitlin creates casual yet breathtakingly beautiful floral arrangements. Stocked in various Belfast stores, and adorning some of the most stylish boutiques in town, she can also create a bespoke order for that special occasion. Keep an eye out for her best buds Flower Bike - it's a beauty! www.bestbudsbelvast.co.uk



extraordinaryROUTINES.com

I recently came across 'Extraordinary Routines', 'Longform interviews with creatives, artists, writers, entrepreneurs, and extraordinary individuals.' It is essentially a series of interviews with people about their working day and weekend routines. Such a simple concept yet it makes for utterly fascinating reading. It has quickly become one of my favourite blogs.

3 of the best... Coffee tables



What's On

Fresh Talent ID2015 Design Hub, Dublin. Until 20th September 2015.

Fresh Talent shines a light on some of the most creative of the new wave of emerging Irish designers, who have made an impact within three years of graduating. There's a mix of award winning graduate projects from Ireland's universities, art and design colleges and from Irish students abroad, together with a selection of designers and practitioners who are establishing their businesses. Fresh Talent draws from a range of fields and incorporates a selection of design disciplines. Curated by Angela O'Kelly.

www.irishdesign2015.com



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Co. Derry artist Adrian Margey paints contemporary and traditional depictions of Ireland's iconic landmarks, landscapes and musical traditions. He has opened a pop-up gallery and studio space in Portrush for the summer season.

'I paint depictions of Ireland's iconic landmarks, landscapes and musical traditions,' explains Adrian. 'Broadly speaking, I have two different styles. The first which I call traditional, follows the conventions of established Irish impressionist landscape painting. The other I call contemporary. It embraces bold colour, the simplification of form and contrasting textures. The colours I use bring a new perspective to familiar scenes and are inspired by the mood that I wish to conjure up in a piece and my reactions to a place.'

So what are Adrian's inspirations? 'From the North Coast to the rugged hills of Donegal and the buzz of Belfast city life – I take inspiration from the world around me,' he explains.

'I remember vividly seeing original Van Gogh paintings for the first time in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art. His brush strokes were alive and exhilarating. I strive to paint with a similar fluidity and vitality. Henri Matisse would be another key influence. His courage and ability to simplify form and celebrate naivety have impacted my work greatly.'

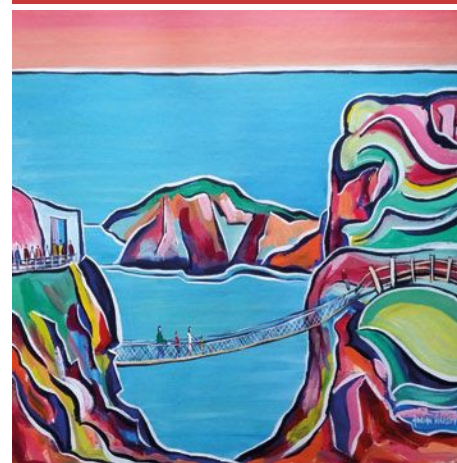
Adrian has recently moved his Kilrea gallery and studio to the North Coast this summer as part of an eight week residency in the seaside



town of Portrush. The pop-up studio and gallery space is open to the public each Friday – Sunday (11am – 7pm) until the start of September. A wide range of Adrian's contemporary and traditional original work is on sale here as part of the summer exhibition and Adrian will be on hand to discuss commissions. The gallery is located at 99 Mark Street Portrush, which is just off Main Street, opposite the car park entrance of the Ramada Hotel. 'Having a view of the sea makes it a great place to work!' Adrian adds.

So what are his plans for the future? 'I had been juggling my artistic practice with my doctoral studies at Queen's University until this time last year. I am now enjoying spending all my time on my artwork. I have been experimenting with hand and finger painting a lot in my recent work and I hope to develop this further. Although my work travels to collectors all over the world, I have not yet staged a solo exhibition outside the island of Ireland. It is my goal over the next couple of years to do so. Watch this space!'

Phone 028 2954 0944 or 07841 593762.
www.adrianmargey.com



COMPETITION

Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living magazine along with Adrian Margey is offering one lucky reader the chance to win a 10 x 10 inch signed and mounted Adrian Margey limited edition print entitled 'Carrick-a-Rede Adventurers' worth £95.

How to enter

Answer the following question:
Where is Adrian's pop-up gallery located?

Send your answer, name, address, email and phone number marked **Adrian Margey Competition** to Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living magazine, PO Box 42, Bangor, County Down, BT19 7AD or Ashgrove House, Kill Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin or enter online at: www.ihil.net

Entries must be received no later than 5pm on Friday 4th September 2015. One entry per household. One separate email/postcard for each competition. Judge's decision is final. No cash alternative. Prizes are -non-transferable.

If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter please include your email address with your entry.



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IKT AWARDS 2014-15

Ireland's Kitchen Trade Awards 2014-15

The fourth Ireland's Kitchen Trade Awards evening sponsored by Dekton by Cosentino took place on Friday 21st November 2014 at a black tie event in Titanic Belfast. We have been focusing on the various category winners and this month we profile the winner of Top Retailer 2014-15 sponsored by Bauknecht.

AWARDS CATEGORY: TOP RETAILER 2014-15

WINNER: *Celtic Interiors*

CATEGORY SPONSORED BY



Richard Broderick from KAL (left) pictured with Aiden O'Leary (centre) and Joe Nash from Celtic Interiors.



JUDGES COMMENT:

The judges were impressed with Celtic Interiors' business model that has enabled them to respond to the changing business climate. They have focused on customer service and this is reflected in their product ranges, their commitment to sustainability, their involvement in CSR and their showroom. They know their market and they have adapted to the recession in the last few years by extending their product range, creating entry level products in addition to their high end kitchens.

WINNER'S COMMENT:

'We were absolutely delighted and truly honoured, to receive the IKT Top Retailer award for 2014-15. We are pleased to know that our hard work and our dedication to both our clients and our brand, have been recognised. There is an amazing team working in Celtic Interiors whom are all very passionate about our product and this passion and determination drives our business forward year after year. This award, which is proudly on display in our showroom, gives people great faith in our company and is a wonderful tool to use for promoting our business.'



Celtic Interiors. Phone 00353 21 4894 121. www.celticinteriors.com

For further information visit www.iktg.ie



Be Seated

Seating is one of the most important elements of your living room and needs to be functional as well as aesthetically pleasing, after all a sofa or armchair can change the whole dynamic of the room!

The type of seating you go for will depend on a number of things; the size of your living area, the shape of the room, the style of the room and the over-all look you want to achieve. With so many styles, colours, shapes and sizes it can be quite the daunting task.

In terms of comfort, it is highly recommended that you try before you buy. Everyone is different and you never know what you are getting until you sit on the product and try it. If this is not an option - if you are

buying online, for example - then look at the build and dimensions closely. Some people prefer low seated sofas or chairs and others high seated, low armrests or high, so pay attention to these small details when choosing.

In smaller living rooms a corner sofa is perfect, if the shape allows, as you can get the same amount of seating without losing space in the corner of the room - plus relaxing into the cosy corner is hard to beat!

Don't feel as though you have to play it safe by buying matching

sets; contrast can add character to a room and when done right it can create a really interesting dynamic. You can add a colour pop by going for a brightly coloured or patterned armchair, which works well if you have a neutral back drop. Likewise, you can opt for a neutral sofa or chair if you have a busier back drop. Keeping it neutral can also make it easier to change up the look of the room without having to change your seating every time you want to redecorate - mix it up with accessories!



1 Verbatim sofa from **Roche Bobois**. Price on request. **2** **Rume** Petal sofa will add a pop of colour to a neutral living room, or create contrasting drama. Price on request.

LIVING ROOM SPECIAL



Grady armchair from **Harvey Norman** in purple. Other colours available. £159/€199.

Aries by Sonia Rykiel from **Roche Bobois**. €2,060.



Tempo armchair and a half from **Natuzzi** is built from extremely high quality materials with ultra soft Natuzzi leather used for exterior upholstery. £2,290/€3,232.



Brighton sofa available from **Elite Lighting**. Price on request.

l'art de vivre by roche bobois



European manufacture

Syllabe large 3-seat leather sofa, designed by Philippe Bouix.

Jim cocktail table, designed by Jean-François Marchou.

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PARIS



Lincoln sofa from **Creation Interiors**. Price on request.



Bedeck Pinstripe
Chair & Footstool.
£450.



The **DFS** Loch Leven Grand Pillow Back Sofa is part of the Country Living collection. The quiet magnificence of the loch has been translated into a handcrafted range that's sumptuous and comfortable. Sale price for sofa £1,599/€2,239 (after sale price £1,799/€2,499). Loch Leven large button footstool, sale price £499/€699 (after sale price £529/€745).



Pictured: Zoffany wallpaper and fabrics

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LIVING ROOM SPECIAL

Jesse sofa available from **Robinson Interiors**.
Price on request.



Jonah armchair from **Made**
with Hexagonal weave. £399.

The Mitford Collection by John Sankey at **Algram**.
This stunning sofa is available in other sizes with
a huge range of fabrics, handmade in Long Eaton,
England; this high-end upholstery is perfect for
those who have an eye for style. Price on request.



Helena Bespoke
Handmade Irish Sofa
from **Browsers**. €1,950.



George turquoise
stoned linen sofa from
House of Fraser. £1,399.



Oliver Bonas 1958
armchair in Coral. £585.

Berkley sofa from
Sweetpea & Willow. £1,195.



Cormar Carpets Primo Choice in Vellum. Price on request.
For your local Irish stockist visit www.cormarcarpets.co.uk



Junckers solid wide board Oak, £110/€155 per m². Phone 01376 534 700. www.junckers.co.uk

Top & Tail

Flooring and lighting are essential in a living room, and the choices you make are important in the overall comfort and look of the room. Here we have a few options for you to consider.



Accastillage lamp from
Roche Bobois. €3,040.

Natuzzi Peltro lamp.
Price on request.

FLOORING

Carpet is a good choice in a living room as it is soft and promotes comfort. It also helps keep heat in the room and creates a cosy atmosphere. The downside of carpet is that it can harbour dust and can be much harder to keep clean.

A hardwood floor is classic and hard to beat in its overall look, but with so many options it doesn't have to look dated! If you have a busy living area with people coming in and out it is a good option as it is hardwearing. A real wood floor can make a real statement in a room.

Tiles aren't only reserved for the kitchen, with an array of aesthetic options it can be a functional and stylish solution for the living areas of the home too. They are hard wearing and easily kept clean, reducing dust which makes them perfect for households with allergies.

Laminate is a great, cost effective alternative to real wood flooring; it comes in all styles, textures and colours and can mimic a look really convincingly. It is also easily maintained and is becoming increasingly popular.



Anglepoise original 1227 lamp, £235/€292. Phone Lighting World, Dublin 01 6717788 and National Lighting, Dublin 01 6769555 and 01 7099070. www.anglepoise.com

Feature lighting from **Elite Lighting**.
Price on request.



Quick-Step Impressive laminate flooring in light grey oiled oak. From £19.99 per m². For your local Irish stock visit www.quick-step.com



Hollywood lamp from **Harvey Norman**.
£335/€399.



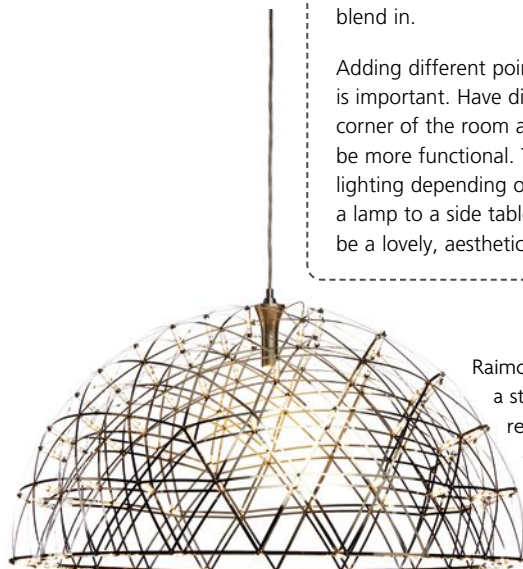
Fired Earth's Rye Harbour porcelain in Limed. These wood grain-effect planks measure 19.7 x 119.7 cm. £89.96/€110.65 per m². Phone Belfast 028 9023 8000 and Dun Laoghaire 01 6636160. www.fireearth.com

LIGHTING

There are endless options of main lighting from pendant to chandelier – it's up to you how grand you want to go. A great addition to main living room lighting is to have a dimmer switch installed, but this is not necessary to create ambience.

Add a floor lamp into your living room to create atmosphere with different points of lighting in the room. You can place it over an armchair to create a reading nook or take up an other-wise bare corner. Coming in many styles there will be something to suit the room- you can make a statement or let it blend in.

Adding different points of lighting in a living room is important. Have different light points in each corner of the room at least, to allow the room to be more functional. This will give you the correct lighting depending on what you are doing. Adding a lamp to a side table, as well as floor lamps, can be a lovely, aesthetically pleasing option.



Raimond Dome 79 from **Moooi** brings a starry night to your home. Price on request. Phone Inreda, Dublin 01 4760362, Lighting Design, Belfast and Minima, Dublin 01 6337716. www.mooui.com

Bold curves, angled legs and contrasting colours make the Fonteyn collection from **Made.com** an eye-catching addition to any home. As well as saving space, sliding doors create cool block colours as they move together. With plenty of room for the important stuff. £279.



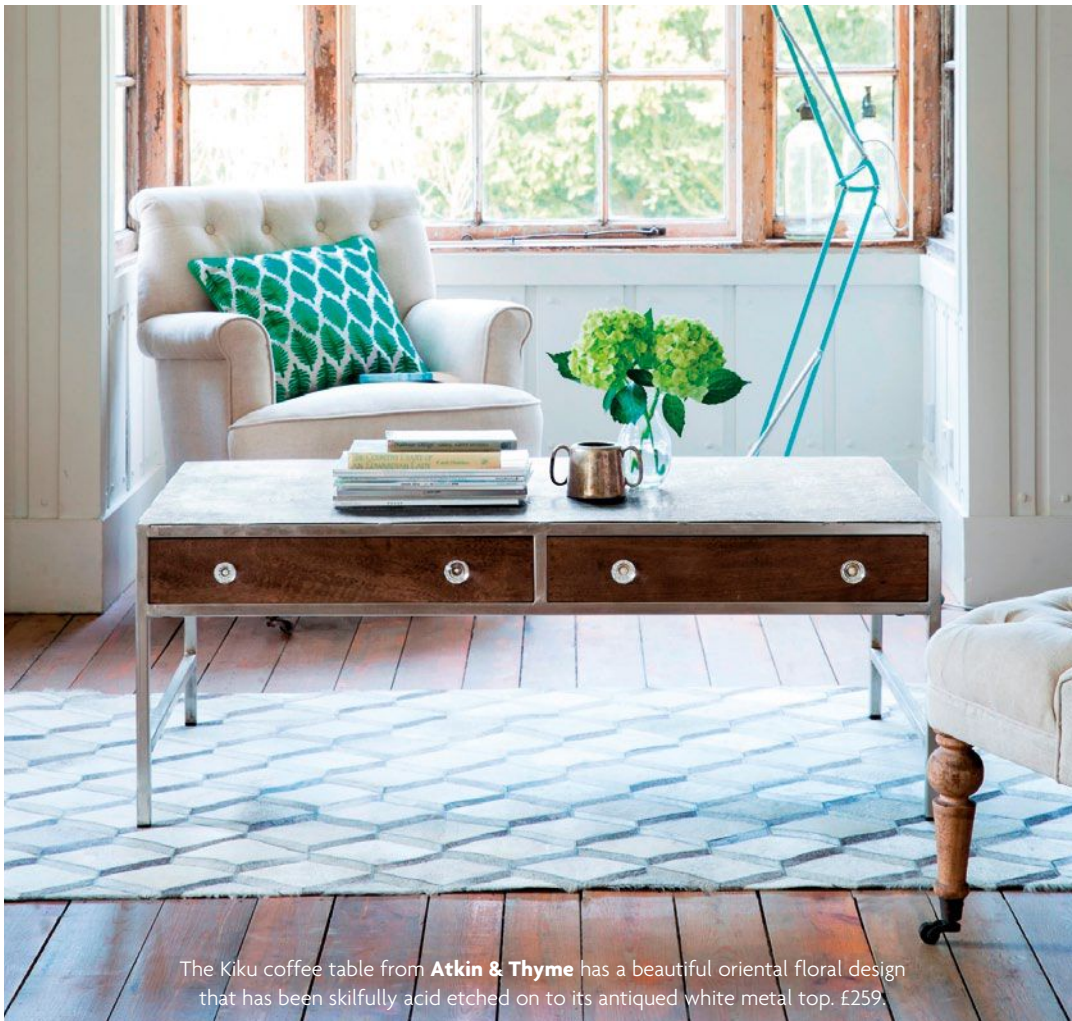
Harvey Norman Chest of wheels. £365/€399.

Hidden Treasures

Whether you have a small living room or big, having extra storage is always nice – but it doesn't have to mean taking up precious space! Why not get a coffee table that doubles up; be it with a shelf underneath, drawers or compartments



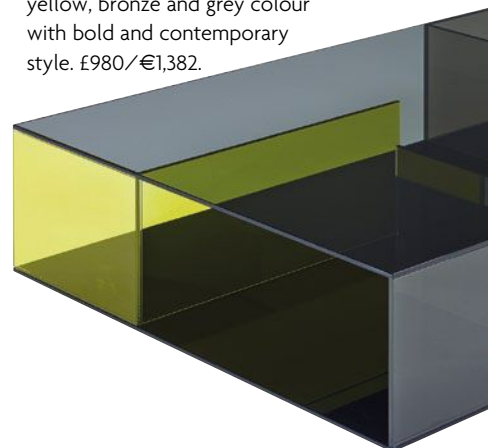
Roche Bobois' Grand Hotel coffee table with two drawers will add an element of storage to the room. €2,000.



The Kiku coffee table from **Atkin & Thyme** has a beautiful oriental floral design that has been skilfully acid etched on to its antiqued white metal top. £259.



Natuzzi Labirinto rectangular coffee table, combination of yellow, bronze and grey colour with bold and contemporary style. £980/€1,382.





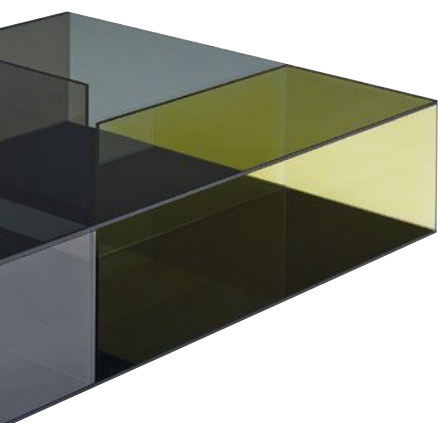
Clap Trap from **Loaf** offers the perfect combo of storage and coffee table. £345.



Beach Harbour Durham coffee table from **House of Fraser**. £699.



This beautiful Factory Pine coffee table from **Sweetpea & Willow** made in an industrial style with castors will add an extra dimension to your home. £495.



The Stockholm Collection by Winsor at **Algram**. This fine, solid oak, contemporary coffee table is part of a large range including side tables and sideboards. Beautifully different from other oak furniture due to its European style, soft close doors and dovetailed joints. Price on request.

Neptune George sofa in Brancaster Navy fabric, from £1,800/€1,940; Esme cushions in Holt Stripe, £62/€63; Brompton floor lamp, £335/€440 & Paris Rue De Seine framed print, £80/€110. www.neptune.com



Decorative Touches

Bring your living room to life with soft furnishings, ornaments and artwork.

Cosy Cushions

From plain to printed, velvet or wool, there are no shortage of cushions in all manner of colourways and finishes which will add interest to your living room.

Above: Petal Cushion Duck Egg from **PUJI**. www.puji.com

Right: Design Lab Charlotte Beevor Cushions from **Sofa.com**. £49 each. www.sofa.com

Oodles of Ornaments

Whether you're a minimalist or maximalist when it comes to nicks-nacks there is no shortage of candles, picture frames, vases etc. for you to choose from.



Pols Potten High
Oily Vase from
Amara. £71.
www.amara.com

Georg Jensen Cobra
Candleholder 600mm
from **Bedeck**. £240.
Phone 0845 6030861.
www.bedeckhome.com



Multi wall Frame from
Oliver Bonas. £59. Phone 0208
9740110. www.oliverbonas.com



Knotty Rug from **Loaf**. £395. www.loaf.com

Floor Art

Add some warmth and a new dimension to your living room floor with a stylish rug.

Blanket Throws

Decorative and practical for snuggling up in on chilly evenings, add texture and complement your overall colour scheme with your choice of throw.



Neptune Cotswold
Herringbone throw from
Browsers. €98. Phone
Limerick 01 9020570.
www.browsers.ie

Normann Copenhagen
Ekko throw. £106.25.
www.normann-copenhagen.com



Art Gallery

Add interest to walls with work from local artists. This is also an easy way of injecting colour into an otherwise neutral colour scheme.



Top: Mournes Cottage by **Adrian Margey**. Price on request.
Phone 07841 593762.
www.adrianmargey.com

Middle: Night Willow by **Zoe Baysting**. Phone Studio Souk,
Belfast 028 9031 9801.
www.zoebausting.com

Bottom: 'Harvest' mixed media by **Sara Maconkey**. From £80.
Phone 07918 025329.
www.saramaconkey.com



STOCKISTS

A

Algram

Ballymena 028 2564 0206.
www.algram.co.uk

Atkin & Thyme

www.atkinandthyme.co.uk

B

Bedeck

0845 6030861 (s).
www.bedeckhome.com

Browsers

Limerick 0353 61414490.
www.browsers.ie

C

Creations Interiors

Belfast 028 9032 3197,
Ballymena 028 2564 9787 or
Newtownabbey 028 9086 2223.
www.creations-interiors.com

D

DFS

Belfast 028 90687472,
Derry 028 71310950,
Cork 021 4359306 and
Dublin 01 6404232.
www.dfs.co.uk
www.dfs.ie

E

Elite Lighting

Ballymena 028 2564 4600.
www.elitelightingni.com

H

Harvey Norman

www.harveynorman.ie

House of Fraser

Belfast 0844 8003705 and
Dundrum 01 2991400.
www.houseoffraser.co.uk

L

Laura Ashley

0871 230 2301 (s).
www.lauraashley.com

Loaf

www.loaf.com

M

Made

www.made.com

N

Natuzzi

01322 312550 (s).
www.natuzzi.co.uk

Neptune

www.neptune.com (s).

O

Oliver Bonas

www.oliverbonas.com

R

Robinsons Interiors

Belfast 028 9068 3838.
www.robinsoninteriors.com

Roche Bobois

Dublin 01 6531650.
www.roke-bobois.com

Rume

www.rume.co.uk (s).

S

Sofa.com

www.sofa.com

Sweetpea & Willow

www.sweetpeaandwillow.co.uk

READER'S REFERENCE:

(s) = Phone for stockist details.



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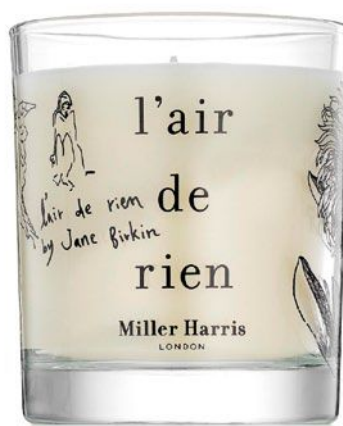
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Escape with the fresh scent of the great outdoors with Wood Sage & Sea Salt from **Jo Malone**. From £42. www.jomalone.co.uk



Created by Lyn Harris for the iconic singer and actress Jane Birkin, L'Air de Rien by **Miller Harris** possesses rich notes of oak moss, Tunisian neroli, sweet musk, amber and vanilla. £40. www.millerharris.com

Made from a blend of perfume, FSC-certified vegetable wax and food-grade German mineral wax with a 100 per cent cotton wick the Skandinavisk scented candles from **Maven** come in a range of subtle fragrances. From £25. www.wearemaven.co.uk



A Sense of Smell

Scent is such a powerful sense and within your home it offers an alternative way to add individuality into your living spaces.

The White Company Wild Mint Candle is a bright and refreshing scent which combines peppermint and spearmint with a touch of white tea. From £28. www.thewhitecompany.com



Made in Ireland, **Bog Standard** have some beautifully fragranced candles including this Kitty's Cottage candle tin. £9.95. www.bogstandard.ie

Oranger from **Diptyque** is a fruity, zesty fragrance of the orange tree. From £40. www.diptyqueparis.co.uk





Lavender Musk Fields Of Joy! hand poured candle from **Getting Personal** offers a fresh and traditional lavender scent. £9.99. www.GettingPersonal.co.uk

Jasmine Halcyon Days Palm Candle from **Amara**. £55. www.amara.com



A selection of candles from **Bearded Candle Makers**. Prices on request. www.facebook.com/thebeardedcandlemakers



No.3 candle by Christy at **The OUTLET** is a sensual blend of rose pepper layered with fresh citrus. Was £40/Now £20. Phone Banbridge 028 4062 7817. www.the-outlet.co.uk



Tom Dixon Fire Scented Candle. £80. www.tomdixon.net



Expert Advice

The best ways to scent your home from Jo Malone Lifestyle Director, Debbie Wild

What do scents bring to a home?

Personality. Decorate your house with scent to match a mood, occasion or complement the season. For example, Lime Basil & Mandarin is refreshing in the hotter summer months, whereas Pomegranate Noir will warm up cosy fire lit winter evenings. Alternatively, the soft floral Red Roses is ideal for more feminine spaces such as the bedroom and bathroom.

Most people associate home scents with candles, what other options are available?

There are infinite ways to use scent. Suffuse the air with room sprays and scent diffusers. Spritz napkins, pillows and towels with linen sprays. Use scent to welcome guests or simply to create an area of calm and relaxation for yourself. The possibilities are endless and down to you.

How do you choose a scent for your home?

This will depend on the occasion. If you are scenting a dinner party you may want to choose candles with gourmand qualities that complement the food. You may prefer to let the food take the lead and opt for something cleaner and fresher like grapefruit. For a relaxing evening in with friends let your senses guide you to a scent that evokes feelings of comfort and relaxation.

What are the dos and don'ts to creating a harmonious fragrant home?

Choosing a scent for your home really depends on the impression you are trying to create. If you are looking for something refreshing, energising and enlivening, you may wish to choose more citrusy fragrances. Alternatively, if you want something warm, passionate and intense, you may choose fragrances from our woody or spicy families. A favourite combination of mine is peppery Vanilla & Anise layered with the decadently juicy Pomegranate Noir.

First think about a warm welcome for your guests. Use scented home candles such as Lime Basil & Mandarin to add a refreshing and aromatic scent, for a delightful welcome into your home. If you are dining at home, try using Grapefruit travel candles on the table as these will not interfere with the food. When serving succulent desserts change your candles to Nectarine Blossom & Honey. This mouthwatering scent is perfect when eating sweeter dishes. For bedrooms and bathrooms try Red Roses home candles to give a spa like scent to the more relaxing rooms and spaces in your home.





3



4

Spacious Living

An open-plan kitchen, living, dining space is one that works for most of today's homeowners who enjoy spending time in this multi-purpose area of their home.

1 Handpainted kitchen with feature island by **Woodmarque Exceptional Joinery**. www.woodmarque.co.uk. **2** **Poplar Design** living perfection by Caroline Higgins. Tall furniture in dark oak truffle with a crystal island enhances the stylish living area in this kitchen. www.poplardesign.com. **3** A kitchen design from the Contemporary Townhouse collection by **Andrew Ryan**. www.andrewryan.ie. **4** Stunning beach home with a hand painted kitchen from the Hamptons Collection by **Noel Dempsey Design**. www.noeldempsey.com.

OPEN-PLAN KITCHENS





1 Bespoke infrared handpainted kitchen with solid oak internals and dovetailed drawers from the 50th Anniversary collection by **Wrights Design House**. www.wrightsdesignhouse.com 2 This open-plan kitchen was designed for a family who wanted a bright open-plan room so that they could spend quality time together. **Celtic Interiors** have achieved this with a hi-gloss door in white, with sleek stainless steel handles and granite. The oversized island is practical, functional and looks great. www.celticinteriors.com 3 Handpainted bespoke kitchen design with contrasting island unit from **O'Connors of Drumleck**. www.oconnorkitchens.ie 4 This sleek, contemporary kitchen design from Rational at **Robinson Interiors** works perfectly within this open-plan space. www.robinsoninteriors.com



OPEN-PLAN KITCHENS





1 Neptune Chichester kitchen. From £8,000. www.neptune.com. **2** This bespoke kitchen, from **Canavan Interiors**, in white satin lacquer with 30mm solid Iroko drawer fascias on the island is the focal point of this large open plan space. www.canavaninteriors.co.uk **3** This contemporary matt grey German design from **Interior360** forms part of a large sociable space in a architecturally designed new build with sea views. www.interior360.com **4** The pinnacle in open-plan living is shown in this exceptional creation by **The Design Yard**. Floor to ceiling handcrafted cabinetry in Crown Fumed Oak, is complemented by a specially designed gloss lacquer island. www.thedesignyard.com **5** A bespoke open-plan space from **Parkes Interiors** incorporating kitchen living and dining furniture complemented throughout in basalt grey and polar white with tobacco oak walk panelling and shelving. www.parkesinteriors.co.uk



Welcome to The Little Wood

Architect Andrew and his wife Emma along with their three children, nine-year-old Eva, seven-year-old Noah and five-year old Annie, have built their forever family home on the outskirts of Lisburn.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL ROBINSON.









Andrew and Emma were fortunate to have this family land, just outside Lisburn and gained planning permission in 2009. In 2010 they decided the time was right for them to sell their home in Annahilt and begin this project.

‘Annie was just born and we felt that the time had come to build our ideal family home. It took a further two and a half years to sell our house, so it was 2012 before we moved into rented

accommodation and the build began.

‘At the time, I had decided to leave my teaching job to look after the children and Andrew, who had been working in a private firm, suddenly lost his job - all as we embarked on the build. As you can imagine it was a very stressful time, but in hindsight it also allowed both of us to be very hands-on and closely project manage the entire build.



Andrew goes on to explain, ‘We have designed the house in order that our family can grow within it. It is completely functional. For example, we have the playroom now for the children to store away all of their toys (well that’s the idea anyway!), which will eventually become a study, and we have added enough ensuite and bathrooms to ensure there is no fighting over time spent in here as the years go on!’

From the moment you arrive at this house the traditional exterior welcomes you to a modern-day, country retreat. Once inside, the double height ceiling in the entrance hall is both grand and practical, letting light warmly stream into this area. Another grand gesture here is the fireplace, which was one of Emma’s decorative must-haves for

added cosiness on cold, winter days.

Off either side of the the entrance hall is the kids’ playroom which also has patio doors opening to the large garden; a real self-contained space for the little ones. To the other side will be the lounge, which is Emma’s next interior project. As she points out it hasn’t been top of the list because it will probably only be used a few times a year for Christmas and special occasions, but it’s still a lovely space to be able to have within the home.

The reclaimed parquet floor comes from Fleet Street via Wilsons Conservation and Building Products, as do all the schoolhouse and French-style radiators, and the reclaimed Belfast brick used both



Off either side of the the entrance hall is the kids' playroom which also has patio doors opening to the large garden; a real self-contained space for the little ones.

indoors and out. This floor leads you into an expansive open-plan kitchen, living, dining area at the back of the house. Off this area is a corridor with downstairs toilet, cloakroom and a utility room. This is the back door entrance and a practical one for everyday use allowing both kids and parents to leave coats, shoes etc neatly tucked away before venturing into the rest of the house.







‘This area is more contemporary in design, with large floor to ceiling windows letting light flood in and allowing us to enjoy the surrounding views,’ explains Andrew. ‘Making the best use of the light in the house was top of our priority list and you’ll notice that even the internal doors have glass panels for this reason.’

‘We have subtly segregated the kitchen and dining area from the living space by the use of steps. I feel that a physical break between the different areas is necessary in an open-plan room like this.’

‘We know that open-plan living is what works best for us as a family,’ adds Emma. ‘This is probably where we spend most of our time together in the house, cooking, eating and relaxing.’

The couple knew exactly what they wanted from their kitchen and worked with Nye Kitchens of Saintfield to get their exact specification for this beautifully handmade design. ‘I wanted a clutter free design and the tall bank of cupboards offers essential storage to allow for this. We have lots of larder space internally, and our electrical items are hidden from view. Our island has a granite work surface - practical for food prep whilst retaining the rustic feel carried through the rest of the kitchen. I also had my heart set on an Aga. We decided against an oil-fired one and went with the electric oven and gas hob version.’







While Emma hoped for her Aga, Andrew also got what he wanted from the technical spec, such as the solar panels for hot water, the timber frame to maximise air tightness and heat, and the addition of plenty of insulation to keep the running of the house as economical as possible. There is even a ventilation system to keep fresh air circulating throughout the whole house.

The couple admit they are likeminded when it



comes to their tastes and have decorated in a modern, country style which also has a strong French influence. 'As a family we spend a lot of time over in France and I'm influenced by properties there,' explains Emma.

'The colour palette we chose flows throughout the house. I have opted for complementary muted tones with the occasional pop of colour, for example our lilac barstools in the kitchen.'

Emma has upcycled lots of the furniture within the home, and shares these creative ideas and many others on her blog

www.lifeatthelittlewood.co.uk. 'In the bathroom I have painted and drilled holes in our old hall table which is now the sink unit, and the storage cupboard was actually our old bookshelf.

These upcycled pieces complement the roll top bath from Beggs & Partners and the stand-out feature - the handpainted tiles from Fired Earth at the sink. 'These are one of the few really extravagant pieces in the house, but I just loved them and I am so pleased with the end result', comments Emma.

The couple also have a walk-in closet which leads into the ensuite bathroom which is darker and has a more masculine style than the rest of the house.



More of Emma's handiwork can be seen in the kids rooms which are furnished with pieces from Aspace and IKEA. 'I change the handles on everything and here in the kids' rooms I think it shows how you can easily and affordably customise shop bought furnishings.'

When talking about the kids rooms Andrew points out, 'All of their rooms have been deliberately designed to be the same size so that there can be no arguments when they get older about who has the bigger one! Noah and Annie share a bathroom and Eva will have the main bathroom to herself because we have the ensuite in our room.'

He also adds, 'Due to the privacy we have around the house we avoided obscure glazing in the bathrooms and decided to have café style shutters from Fraser Nolan for the windows. All of the bedrooms have black-out blinds, but we have designed the windows to completely conceal these from view when they are up during the day.'





‘In the bathroom
I have painted
and drilled holes
in our old hall
table which is
now the sink unit.’







The master bedroom sees the continuation of the exposed brick on the chimney breast which runs up from the downstairs living area. 'I always wanted a fireplace in our bedroom and I'm really pleased with the look of our woodburning stove in here,' says Emma. Counterbalancing this extravagance, Emma has again handpainted all of the bedroom furniture in here and customised with ceramic handles. The couple also have a walk-in closet which leads into the ensuite bathroom which is darker and has a more masculine style than the rest of the house.





Andrew and Emma's home is just as striking outside as inside and sits on over two acres of land, enjoying idyllic views of the surrounding countryside.

'Working to a budget at the time of the build we actually raked and sowed the whole garden ourselves,' says Andrew. 'My father planted an orchard on the site a few years ago, which is located off to one side of the garden we created - hence the name 'Little Wood'. We still have to get round to building the garage and getting the gates and gateposts erected, but it's a work in progress.'

Emma adds, 'Outdoors we want to soften the edges with a bit more planting and bed the house a little more into the landscape, but as Andrew says we'll get there eventually.'

We are so pleased with everything we have achieved so far and this is our forever family home so there's no rush. We have the rest of our lives to get it exactly the way we want it.' 🏠

Create the look

FROM THE LISBURN HOME

Andrew and Emma have lovingly furnished their forever family home on the outskirts of Lisburn.



Large metal wall clock from **PUJI**. £70. www.puji.com



French leather club chair Havana Moustache model 1940's from **The Old Cinema**. £875. Phone 0208 9954166. www.theoldcinema.co.uk



Baltimore brass coat stand from **Artisanti**. £254. Phone 0345 2591410. www.artisanti.com



Revival Maria bed from **House of Fraser**. £649. Phone 0845 6021073. www.houseoffraser.co.uk



Valentine three seater sofa in Harbour Mist fabric from **Darlings of Chelsea**. £1,049. Phone 0207 3715745. www.darlingsofchelsea.co.uk

Pretty as a Picture

This pretty Edwardian redbrick house appealed to house hunter Ursula who was hoping to find a period home in Dublin 6.



‘We were looking for a home that was a bit larger, and with a proper garden to replace our small patio’, Ursula says. ‘We looked at a lot of homes, but this one had something special. I’ve heard people say that you can get a good feeling from a house from the moment you step inside, and that was my experience here, but it was when I looked up and saw the beautiful plasterwork in the reception rooms that I fell in love.’

PHOTOGRAPHY AND EDITORIAL BY BARBARA EGAN/REPORTAGE.









‘I’ve heard people say that you can get a good feeling from a house from the moment you step inside, and that was my experience here, but it was when I looked up and saw the beautiful plasterwork in the reception rooms that I fell in love.’

The layout of the house had changed little since it was built; the two front rooms were large reception rooms with high ceilings, but the kitchen and breakfast room to the rear of the house were small, without direct access to the generous garden. On the first floor were four bedrooms, although one was little more than a boxroom; the landing was disproportionately large. There was a single, tiny bathroom and a separate WC. On the plus side, the attic was a large habitable space.

‘It was a traditional plan, now outdated,’ says Ursula. ‘As a contemporary family, I felt we needed a lot more kitchen and living/family area and the garden needed to be more accessible; it is large and sunny. I loved the reception rooms, but thought they would work better if they were linked through interconnecting doors, and of course we needed a decent-sized bathroom, ensembles and a utility; Edwardian plumbing is not really for the modern family!’





Ursula envisaged a big, open-plan kitchen/living/dining extension flooded with light, opening out into a terraced area for eating outside in good weather, she wanted a separate shower room for the children to use, and to use the tiny boxroom as ensuite to the master bedroom. She asked an architect to draw up the plans, and he suggested also taking part of the large landing to use as a dressing room. While designing an ensuite to go in the attic space, he also suggested installing more roof lights for extra sunlight. The project was exempted from planning permission as the extension was to the rear of the house and did not exceed the allowable thresholds.

Ursula also consulted with an insulation and heat recovery specialist company, ProAir, to update the fabric of the house. They recommended the installation of state-of-the-art insulation, double and triple glazing, and a heat recovery system to reduce heating bills. To protect the insulation envelope, they suggested that ceiling lighting in the living area was hung from wire cables rather than in the roof itself, and Ursula also decided to go for a water recovery system.



‘Builder Frank Devlin was recommended to me as being first class, and I was delighted to get him’, says Ursula. ‘He really is a perfectionist and will always do things to the highest level of finishing.’ The whole rear of the house was removed to prepare for the new extension, all the walls were stripped back to the brickwork and the roof removed for reconstruction. All the original fireplaces were removed for refurbishment and the wall between the reception rooms broken through.

‘To make sure that the new interconnecting doors were in period, Frank found a house nearby of similar age with interconnecting reception rooms, and copied the construction to the smallest detail’, says Ursula. ‘That is the level of attention that made him an exceptional builder for us.’ As the work began on reroofing and insulating the house, building the new extension and rewiring and plumbing, Ursula turned her attention to furnishing and finishing.











‘From the first day that we moved in, we just fell into living here as if we had never lived anywhere else,’ says Ursula.



‘I knew that I wanted a big island in the kitchen so I could look out at the garden, and I had already constructed a triangle of use between the kitchen, dining and living areas in my head,’ she says. ‘I took down the measurements of ‘The Big Box’, which is what we had christened the extension, and went out to start researching kitchens.’ In Houseworks in Dublin’s Erne Street (now The Design Yard), she found a one-stop shop. ‘I was impressed by the Siematic kitchen with padded dust seals around the unit doors, I loved that level of detail,’ she says. ‘Their contemporary, sturdy well-made furniture really appealed as well, so I ended up buying most of the extension’s fittings and furnishings all together.’

In the sitting room, Ursula decided on a contrast to the contemporary open-plan family area, using instead a more period look for a more formal room. ‘In our last home, I had used very rich colour, ivory and gold dominated. I wanted something fresher, and I love all the greys that are fashionable at the moment,’ says Ursula. ‘Then I saw the deep purple curtains that I was to buy for the master bedroom and thought how beautiful they would look against a light grey, and that became my colour scheme for both sitting room and bedroom.’



‘From the first day that we moved in, we just fell into living here as if we had never lived anywhere else,’ says Ursula. ‘Family life revolves around the open-plan kitchen as I had planned, in fact all my ideas about doing up the house came to fruition. It’s my dream home and I’m over the moon about it.’ 🏠

Create the look

FROM THE DUBLIN HOME

Ursula's pretty Edwardian property in Dublin has been furnished with classic and stylish pieces.



Vintage style gold chain wall mirror from **The Farthing**. This metropolitan wire link mirror with antiqued gold finish will set your room alive. £149. www.thefarthing.co.uk

901 bar stool by **Wharfside**. £406 in soft touch polyurethane, £558 in fabric and £736 in leather. www.wharfside.co.uk



Surrey satin grey and silver nickel metal desk angle lamp from **Artisanti**. £200. Phone 0845 259 1410 for your nearest Irish stockist. www.artisanti.com



Stars cushion from **H.O.C.K.** €29.90. www.hock-dich-hin.de



Alta faux fur cushion from **Made.com**. £25. Phone 0845 557 6888. www.made.com



Versailles Tiroir sleigh bed from **The Island Furniture Co.** Made from solid mahogany wood, hand polished and finished to a beautiful satin patina in nutmeg color. £874.80. Phone 0800 056 7820. www.islandfurnitureco.com

The Perfect Hideaway

Hideaway at Foxhollow in Co. Meath was originally built as the herd manager's residence for a large farm and just a few short years ago it had come down far enough in the world to be used for storing hay. But June couldn't bear to see the house become derelict.

PHOTOGRAPHY & EDITORIAL BY BARBARA EGAN/REPORTAGE.









‘My parents had bought the farm years ago; they breed cattle and racehorses and needed the extra grazing. They did put sheep on it too, but there were so many foxes resident that they had to stop; the fox population gives the house its name,’ says June. ‘The whole family used the farmhouse as an overflow space when lots of people came to stay, my husband, Joe, is from Mayo and we often had big groups of friends and family coming for weekends, or longer.’

Over the years, the utilities in the house had become more dated and little things began to go; eventually it became obvious that it was going to need a lot of work to bring it up to contemporary lifestyle levels. Crunch time came when the herd broke in.





'I had been keeping an eye on the house and thinking about what could be done with it', says June. 'I definitely didn't want to let it go. Then the decision was made for us; it was about four years ago, when the boys (sons Hugh, Rory, Harry and Theo) and I decided to grow a meadow for hay for the ponies. It was our project for the summer, we harvested it and baled it, storing the bales in the old dairy, which is now the kitchen. The herd got in to the sweet, fresh hay and in the process of polishing

off the lot, completely destroyed the place.'

The mess was unbelievable and June was broken-hearted. She vowed then and there that she would restore the house, and make it into a comfortable, welcoming retreat for the whole family. For the first few years, she simply did what really needed to be done to maintain the house, attending to the roof, repairing the timbers, keeping the place in reasonable condition. Then in 2012, she took a deep breath and decided it was time, now or never.



‘I wanted to make a really homely, comfortable house for all seasons, where it is always cosy and inviting no matter what the weather outside.’



'I wanted to make a really homely, comfortable house for all seasons, where it is always cosy and inviting no matter what the weather outside,' says June. 'I envisaged it as a truly traditional Irish farmhouse with a big welcoming kitchen where everyone could congregate.'

The long, low stone dairy to one side of the house was built of the same local stone as the farmhouse and was large and roomy, so June decided to make it into the kitchen, with a utility and bathroom tucked in at the end. 'The wonderful thing about the dairy is the light,' says June. The long sides face east and west, so the sun pours in all day long.







‘In the old-fashioned farm kitchen, there were usually separate rooms off it for storage and various tasks, a pantry or scullery, so that the kitchen area was more for living and eating, and that is what I wanted to recreate,’ says June. ‘Having a separate pantry and utility cuts down on clutter and means you can close the door on the washing up!’ The kitchen is also part dining and part living too. June wanted to make the whole room comfortable for sitting and chatting after meals. and she has used the long kitchen windowsill for a comfortable window seat, while one side of the dining table is a banquette, an idea common in Austrian homes, which June spotted while holidaying there. From the kitchen table is a view of June’s pretty, picturesque kitchen garden with the raised vegetable and herb beds that supply the farmhouse.

In the main two-storey part of the house, the bedrooms were refurbished with ensembles added. Downstairs was originally a kitchen and a seldom-used formal parlour, June decided to re-assign both. The parlour became a downstairs family bedroom and the old kitchen which adjoins the new kitchen/dining area is now a cosy living room, based around the cream enamel wood-burning stove. ‘The stove can be seen through the glazed double doors from the kitchen, I liked the idea of being able to see a warm, inviting wood fire from there,’ says June.



‘I became the project manager and drove everywhere to find the materials for the renovation, hitching up a trailer to my jeep for collecting everything.’







The budget for the renovation was not large but June had the help of a gifted general tradesman, supplemented with an electrician and a plumber; everything else fell to her. 'I learned so much in the process', she says. 'I became the project manager and drove everywhere to find the materials for the renovation, hitching up a trailer to my jeep for collecting everything.'

When the plumber arrived, June went off with list in hand to the local bathroom showrooms and builder's suppliers, returning with shower units and bathroom suites, taps and lengths of piping, valves and joints, the same scene was re-enacted for the electrician and, most days, for the tradesman also. June cast her net wider for the old reclaimed French timber floor, the Belfast sinks and exterior lighting, travelling to salvage yards in Dublin and Belfast. 'It made the whole project feasible', says June. 'It was the only way it could be done on the budget that I had.'





‘My idea for the look of the house was to have a mix of traditional old pieces and new, to create a comfortable, relaxing interior,’ says June. Many of the older pieces of furniture she already had, either from family or through collecting over the years, these are supplemented with newer pieces bought locally and aimed towards durability and comfort.

Help with choosing fabric and paint colours came from Sabrina Callan in Dunshaughlin who also made up all the curtains and blinds. ‘I do like colour on the walls,’ says June. ‘Nothing too strong, but something with a warm tone can really make a room inviting.’

The finished farmhouse is certainly inviting, warm and unassuming, it extends a very Irish welcome to June and

Joe’s large extended family scattered across the globe.

June loves to welcome, cook and entertain, and has now extended her warm welcome to visitors from all over the world who can stay in Hideaway at Foxhollow and enjoy the local countryside, helped and guided by June’s schoolboy sons who enjoy taking guests cycling, fishing, golfing and discovering the wonderful heritage of the Boyne Valley.

‘I started out simply to rescue the lovely old house, then to make it a haven for our family to stay, but I love to share it and to see people’s enjoyment in staying here when they come from a busy city life to the warmth and old-fashioned comfort that is Foxhollow.’

Hideaway at Foxhollow is available to stay in at uniqueirishhomes.ie 🏠

Create the look

FROM THE MEATH HOME

June's home in Co.Meath is full of country style interior pieces that bring a cosy and welcoming feel.



Guildford dining chair from **Oficina Inglesa**. Exquisitely hand-carved throughout, it is a classic Victorian-style piece; shown in cherry wood with an Avignon finish. Price on request. Phone 020 7226 4569. www.oficinainglesa.com



Mr Fox cushion cover from **Andshine**. £20. www.andshine.co.uk

Garden Toile Pink Wallpaper from **Digitex Home**. £30 for a 62.5cm wide x 300cm high panel. Phone 0161 873 8891. www.DigetexHOME.co.uk



Chateau Classic Mirror from **Sweetpea & Willow**. £347. www.sweetpeaandwillow.com

Royalcraft Cafe Espresso two seat bistro set from **White Stores**. £69.95. www.whitestores.co.uk





Open House

Zara and Michael's new home in Lisburn takes full advantage of the incredible rural panoramic views. With a vast, open-plan living space, the couple visited Beechview Interiors for advice on what kitchen would work for them and the results speak for themselves.





The couple knew how important forward planning was to a successful new build home and to their kitchen. Their architect in Switzerland (Pierre O. Kielholz from Zug in Switzerland, a family friend) had designed their beautiful modern new build home to take full advantage of the wonderful site and views. Stone elements to the exterior and a vaulted lime washed ceiling were important details in the design. ‘The entire downstairs area of the home is a large open-plan space with split levels to a sitting area and a sunroom,’ says Zara. On recommendation we paid a visit to Beechview Interiors for a look at what they had to offer and to speak to someone face to face to get across what our situation was and what we wanted to achieve. Straight away they knew where we were coming from. We were very keen on all the Blum dynamic space theories they had in the showroom.’

In the initial consultations, the kitchen/dining space had little wall space with none of it positioned towards the windows, which was decided to be the best area for the kitchen. A decision was taken to use partitioning stud walls to hold the full height fridge and full height freezer and also the two ovens, combi oven and warming drawer. This was designed to show a framing around the sides over the top and between the fridge/freezer and the ovens. The positioning of it in the room left the main entrance to



the home being partitioned off as the couple were worried that you could view all the downstairs from this entrance but it was left that the entrance area still remained very spacious and the vaulted ceilings a real feature, with the bank being in optimum working distance from the island. 'The full height Liebherr fridge and freezer were incorporated in the design because in our current kitchen there was a lack of fridge/freezer space was always an issue for us. The bio fresh system in the Liebherr model we went for suited us perfectly. Two full height ovens and a combi oven with warming drawer gave us a great line up for cooking. After the induction hob demo in the showroom, we had to have one!'

A second, lower partitioning wall was designed to incorporate the main sink area; this also provided a clear division to the lower snug area. The sink area incorporates a large Foster sink which has a draining board within the sink to stop water dripping on to the work surfaces, the dishwasher, a pull out bin and a waste disposal unit leaving all the washing and cleaning in one defined area. It was decided that the InSinkerator, instant hot water and cold filtered water tap would also be positioned here with a floating unit to house all the family's cups and glasses as they wanted to stay clear from the traditional wall unit design.



‘The main focus of the kitchen for us is the large island unit. It incorporates the induction hob with a downdraft extractor and prep sink with a waste disposal unit for use during the preparation of food which is incredibly handy. We have drawers with inserts for all our cutlery, utensils, pots and pans on the cooking side and on the window side we have a small second fridge for drinks and deep drawers for any extra storage. This was a great addition as it gave us the best use from the large balcony area accessed from the sliding doors opposite the island unit. Plus the breakfast bar area was another element incorporated to make the kitchen functional as we are a busy family.’

The aluminium framed grey glass door is very sleek and of course the handleless element adds to that feel which is made possible by a Blum tip-on system. The worktop is Blanco Romano. ‘We had almost decided on our work surface and then came across this alternative. It was a much more natural finish that worked in harmony with the natural stone on the exterior of the house and added a softness which we felt was important as it is such a large room.’

‘We absolutely love the kitchen. With such a large space it can be quite overwhelming just what to do with it! Plus, of course you are worried about the kitchen becoming too dominant in the space but Lisa at Beechview Interiors is very experienced in this sort of situation and dealing with open plan living so they met our concerns and brought so much to the table. We are delighted not only by the functionality of the kitchen and how it works for us, but also by the looks on our friends and families faces when they come in!’ ✂



Kitchen Contacts

KITCHEN DESIGN

Beechview Interiors

Toome 028 7965 1770.

www.beechview-interiors.com

APPLIANCES

Single oven: 2 x Küppersbusch

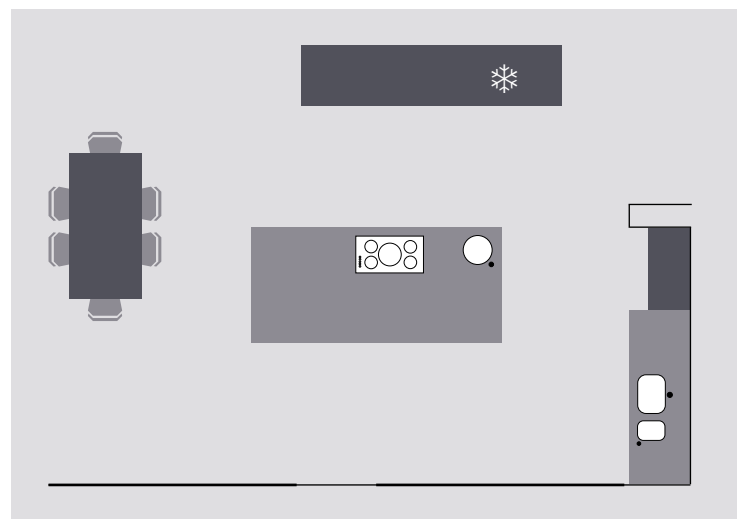
Combi oven: Küppersbusch

Warming drawer: Küppersbusch

Integrated fridge/freezer: Leibherr

Induction hob: Bosch

Downdraft extractor: Air Uno



Make a Meal of It

This month Livestock and Meat Commission Northern Ireland serves up some tasty, seasonal beef and lamb dishes.



Lamb with Mango Chilli and Mint Salad.
(Recipe on following page)

For advice on cooking beef and lamb as well as other tasty recipes to try at home log on to www.beefandlambni.com. Here you will also find a number of useful step-by-step cooking tutorials. When you buy beef or lamb always look out for the **Farm Quality Assured** logo.



Lamb with Mango Chilli and Mint Salad

(Pictured on previous page)

Turn over a new leaf and create mango magic with this luscious lamb salad. Made with succulent Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured large lamb leg steaks and packed full of zesty flavours it'll be a 'toss-up' who gets the last bite.

Serves 4

Prep Time: 15 mins

Cooking Time: 15 mins

INGREDIENTS

2 Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured large lamb leg steaks
A little olive oil
1 peeled clove of garlic – optional
Salt and pepper

Mango Salad

Watercress leaves
1 mango, peeled and finely sliced
1 small red onion, finely sliced
1 mild red chilli finely sliced

Dressing

30g (1 oz) brown sugar
The juice and zest of 1 lime
30ml olive oil
10g (½ packet) mint leaves
10g (½ packet) coriander leaves

METHOD

1 Rub the lamb steaks with the peeled garlic clove, a little olive oil, salt and pepper and grill on each side for 3-4 minutes. Remove from the hot grill pan and cover with tin foil. Rest for 5 minutes while you make the salad.

2 Combine the sliced mango with the red onion, chilli, mint, coriander and watercress leaves. Put the lime juice and sugar into a bowl and microwave on high for 1 minute to dissolve the sugar, mix in the olive oil and then add into the salad and mix.

3 Place salad in small piles on serving plates. Slice the rested lamb and place on top of the salad.



Lamb Wellington with Spinach and Mushrooms

Create the perfect Sunday dinner with delicious Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured leg of lamb steaks stuffed with a mouth-watering mushroom mix and wrapped in a light and tasty puff pastry crust. If this doesn't have them running to the table nothing will!

Serves 2

Prep time: 35 mins

Cooking time: 30 mins

Oven temperature:

Pre-heat to 220°C/425°F/gas mark 7

INGREDIENTS

2 Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured leg of lamb steaks
50g of good mushroom pate
2 shallots, finely chopped

1 tablespoons of olive oil
1 clove garlic, crushed
100g button mushrooms, sliced
50g shitake mushrooms, sliced
¼ bag spinach
Salt and pepper
250g all butter puff pastry
Flour for dusting
1 egg yolk

METHOD

1 Wilt the spinach in a hot saucepan with a little of the olive oil and garlic, season with salt and pepper. This will only take a minute or two. Cool and set to one side.

2 Heat the remaining oil in a frying pan and fry the shallots and mushrooms, until golden, then add the remaining garlic and fry for another minute. Remove from the pan to cool.

3 Next seal the lamb steaks in a very hot pan for 1 minute on each side, remove to a plate and cool.

4 Roll out the pastry to about 3mm thick and cut in two pieces, one half slightly larger than the other, reserve the larger half for the lid.

5 Place the lamb steaks onto the remaining pastry in a rectangular shape, lightly season with salt and pepper, smear with the mushroom pate, then place the spinach along with the shallot and mushroom mix. Brush the edges with the egg yolk and place the pastry lid on top. Pinch together and trim off any excess pastry. Make a design on top if you wish and then brush with egg yolk.

6 Rest for 5 minutes. Then bake in a really hot oven, for 16 minutes, or until golden brown.

7 Remove and rest for a minute, then cut in half and serve with potatoes, vegetables and mushroom gravy.

Oriental Steak with Chilli and Garlic Green Beans

Cook up a light and healthy taste of the orient at home with these simply delicious oriental steaks, slowly marinated to soak up all the flavour and ensure tenderness in every bite.

Serves 2

Prep time: 2 hours to marinade and 25 min to prep

Cooking time: 20 mins

Oven temperature: Oven temperature 200°C/400°F/Gas 6

INGREDIENTS

2 x 10oz Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured sirloin steaks

French green beans

1 tsp ground nut oil

1 garlic clove, crushed

1 tiny pinch of dried chilli flakes

For the Marinade

100mls Teriyaki sauce

1 large garlic clove, crushed

25g (1 inch) piece of ginger, peeled and finely grated

A small pinch of dried chilli flakes

10g (2 tsp) palm sugar or brown sugar will do

Juice of 1 lime – about 30mls

METHOD

1 Place the marinade ingredients into a mixing jug and mix well until the sugar is dissolved. Put the steaks into a plastic food bag and pour the marinade on top. Fold and seal the bag in a way that the steaks are completely covered in marinade and leave in the fridge for around two hours.

2 Heat a non stick frying pan, then remove the steaks from the marinade and seal for 1 minute on both sides, the sugar in the marinade will make them caramelise almost instantly. When the steaks are sealed place them onto a baking tray. Pour the remaining marinade into the frying pan and boil it for 2 minutes, then pour this sauce over the steaks and place in the hot oven for 8 minutes for medium, longer if you prefer them well done.

3 While the steaks are cooking, blanch the green beans in boiling water for 1 minute, then run under cold water. Heat the oil in a clean frying pan and stir fry the garlic, chilli and green beans for 2-3 minutes, season with salt and pepper. Put the beans into a serving dish and keep warm until the steaks are ready.

4 When the steaks are cooked, remove from the oven, cover with tinfoil and rest for 2 minutes.

5 To serve arrange the beans on warm serving plates, top with the steaks and pour over the sauce.





Grilled Lamb Chops with Mint and Fruity Couscous

Go on, let your exotic side out and try this classic with a twist. With Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured lamb chops, this fresh dish is a sure way of whetting your appetite on the barbecue/grill and for dinner parties.

Serves 4

Prep Time: 15 mins

Cooking Time: 35 mins

Oven temperature: Pre heat a grill

INGREDIENTS

8 Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured lamb chops or lamb leg steaks
4 tablespoons of olive oil
1 clove of garlic, crushed
2 level teaspoons of shop bought mint sauce
1 large pinch of chilli flakes
Salt and pepper

Couscous

200g couscous
250ml chicken stock
1 tablespoon of olive oil
1 red onion, halved and finely sliced
1 clove of garlic, crushed
A small pinch of chilli flakes
80g dried cranberries
2 tablespoons pomegranate seeds (optional)
15g of fresh coriander, finely chopped
15g of fresh mint, finely chopped
100g wild rocket leaves
Salt and pepper

Dressing

2 tablespoons of honey
2 tablespoons of light olive oil
1 tablespoon of red wine vinegar
A small pinch of chilli flakes

METHOD

1 Mix olive oil, mint sauce, garlic and chilli in a shallow bowl.

2 Coat each lamb chop in the marinade and allow to rest for 10 minutes before grilling the chops for 4-5 minutes on both sides, cover with tinfoil and rest for 2 minutes.

3 Meanwhile, tip the couscous into a bowl with boiling chicken stock. Stir and allow to stand for 10 minutes while you grill the lamb chops and prepare the remaining salad ingredients.

4 Heat a little oil in a non-stick pan and fry the onions until soft and golden, add the garlic, chilli, cranberries and cook for a further 3 minutes, then remove from the heat and tip into a serving bowl along with couscous, pomegranate seeds, chopped coriander, mint and rocket.

5 Season with salt and pepper.

6 Whisk the dressing ingredients together and drizzle over the couscous salad and serve with the grilled chops.

Roast Beef Salad with Horseradish Cream, Beetroot and Watercress

If you think roast beef is just for Sunday dinner, think again! For a delicious alternative try it thinly sliced, served on a bed of mixed leaves and drizzled with a creamy sauce. They'll not even miss the spuds!

Serves 6

Prep Time: 25 mins

Cooking Time: Depends on how rare or well done you like your roast cooked, see recipe for further guidance

Oven temperature: Pre-heat to 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4

INGREDIENTS

1200g Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured topside roasting joint
60ml olive oil
3 tbsp. horseradish sauce
6 tablespoons half-fat crème fraîche
Juice of half a lemon
Small bag of watercress leaves
Small bag of rocket leaves
1 small red onion, sliced wafer thin

1 small punnet of vine-ripened cherry tomatoes cut in half

12 boiled baby beetroot (not pickled), quartered
20ml balsamic vinegar

METHOD

1 Rub the beef joint with half of the olive oil and seal in a hot non stick frying pan until golden brown all over.

2 Transfer on to a baking tray and cook in a hot oven for 15 minutes per 500g in weight plus an extra 15 minutes for rare beef and a further 10 minutes for medium. It is important to let the beef rest after cooking, so when you remove the roast from the oven cover it with tinfoil and leave for 15 minutes.

3 While the beef is resting, mix together the horseradish sauce, crème fraîche and lemon juice. Taste the sauce in case you wish to make it hotter by adding more horseradish.

4 Prepare the salad by mixing the watercress and rocket leaves, cherry tomatoes, beetroot and red onion with the balsamic vinegar and remaining olive oil and place on a serving platter, thinly slice the rested beef and arrange on top of the watercress leaves and drizzle with the horseradish cream.



Creamy Peppered Beef

For a sensational and satisfying meal, this beefy indulgence is the cream of the crop. One mouthful of Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured chump steak tenderly cooked in a rich and spicy creamy sauce and it'll be love at first bite!

Serves 4

Prep time: 20 mins

Cooking time: 40 mins

INGREDIENTS

1 tbsp of olive oil
500g Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured chump steak, thinly sliced
1 red onion, finely sliced
2 cloves of garlic, crushed
1 red pepper, finely sliced
1 yellow pepper, finely sliced
250g mushrooms, cleaned and sliced
1 tsp of chilli powder
30ml cognac (optional)
250ml beef stock
150ml double cream

METHOD

1 Heat the olive oil in a large non stick frying pan and fry the onion until soft.

2 Add the chump steak and thoroughly brown then add the peppers and fry for 5 minutes until they begin to soften.

3 Add the mushrooms and fry until golden then add the garlic, chilli powder and cognac. Let the cognac evaporate then quickly add the beef stock and cream. Reduce the temperature and simmer for about 20 minutes until the sauce has thickened and the beef is tender.

4 Spoon into warm bowls and serve with wild rice cooked in vegetable stock. ✕

Destination Ireland:

Waterford



IMAGES COURTESY OF FÁILTE IRELAND.

Waterford's beautiful coastlines are home to stunning scenery and beautiful historical sites but it is also home to electric festivals and world class restaurants and hotels. A visit to this county could literally take you anywhere, from browsing the shops and markets of Waterford City, to learning Irish in the Ring Gaeltacht. The city offers plenty of shopping options, with loads of cosy pubs to rest your weary feet in afterwards.

Things to see and do

Waterford Treasures is the name of the three museums that are found in the Viking Triangle situated in the heart of Waterford city. These museums which are within a few paces of each other tell the 1,100 year old story of Waterford from its foundation in 914 by Viking sea pirates. The massive stone fortress, Reginald's Tower, houses Waterford's Viking Treasures; Ireland's only Medieval Museum showcases spectacular Treasures from the Middle Ages and the elegant 1743 Bishop's Palace is the home of the Treasures of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. www.waterfordtreasures.com



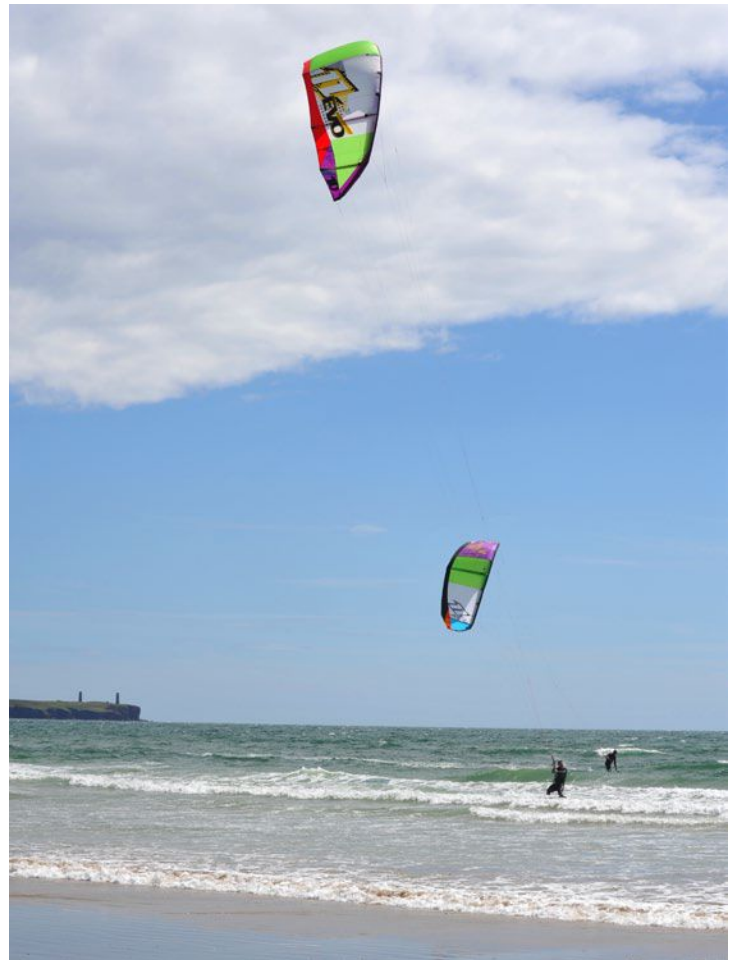
For something different why not take a visit to Skyhigh kitesurfing in Tramore Bay on the Blue Flag beach. From beginners to experienced - all levels are catered for in a fun learning environment. www.skyhigh.ie

Now in its 7th year, the Harvest Festival in Waterford City held 11th - 13th September 2015 takes time to celebrate and enjoy the bounty of the Harvest. The festival market, which will run over three days, will showcase the fantastic produce of the region. With plenty to tickle your taste buds, tantalising smells and toe tapping sounds, this event is one that the whole family can enjoy. www.waterfordharvestfestival.ie

If music is your thing then The 20th International Dunmore East Bluegrass Festival held from 25th - 30th August 2015, will feature fantastic bands from the USA, England, Canada, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. Visitors will enjoy impromptu sessions and pub performances throughout the village. This free, family-friendly festival will feature workshops where visitors can learn some musical skills to take back home. Bring your banjo, mandolin or any other musical instrument and join in the fun. www.discoverdunmore.com

The Imagine Arts Festival 2015 also in Waterford City is held from 15th - 25th October is an exciting multi-disciplinary festival that promotes the best of local arts mixed with top national and international work. Now in its 14th year, the festival includes a children's programme, a history and heritage section, workshops on everything from art to drama, and a traditional music weekend within its ten day programme. This unique event offers top quality work, an intimate experience and a friendly welcome to all. www.imagineartsfestival.com

The famous Waterford Crystal has moved to a magnificent new home in the heart of Waterford City. A unique highlight of a visit is the factory tour which gives an up close insight into the centuries old tradition of Waterford Crystal making. Feel the heat of the furnace and marvel at the skills of our craftsmen. www.waterfordvisitorcentre.com





Where to eat

La Boheme is a French restaurant located in the vaults of one of Waterford city's most prestigious buildings. The new Wine Bar at La Boheme is a recent addition to La Boheme Restaurant and has the same lovely ambience and cosy interior. The menu offers plenty of choice, changes seasonally and is modern classic French. La Boheme offers great seafood, lamb, beef, and daily specials.

www.labohererestaurant.ie

The Tannery Restaurant and Townhouse in the seaside town of Dungarvan delivers fresh Waterford produce, ever-changing menus and has a mouth-watering focus on flavour. Have a cosy chat in the wine bar and enjoy warm and welcoming service from expert staff and a bright and buzzy atmosphere at the dining tables. The Tannery also provides an award winning cookery school which can cater for up to 14 participants at practical classes, or 30 at cookery demos all led by head chef Paul Flynn. www.tannery.ie



Where to stay

The Cliff House Hotel is an intimate, Relais Chateaux five star luxury hotel sewn into the coast, overlooking the historic village of Ardmore, in West Waterford. Its gardens, terrace and balconies cascade down the cliffs. Almost all of the luxury accommodation features private balconies or terraces overlooking the Irish Sea. Try a few lengths in the sea from the comfort of the hotel steps or for a slightly more relaxed activity try sea kayaking or walking. There is also the opportunity for biking, rock climbing, experiencing Ireland's most unique golf hole by trying to get a hole in one in their floating green using eco friendly golf balls made from fish food. It is distinguished as much for its design and sea views as for the spa experience and the region's most exquisite food, the House Restaurant, a One Michelin Star Restaurant where you can enjoy a delicious mix of Irish cuisine and international cooking expertise. www.theciffhousehotel.com

The four star Granville Hotel in Waterford City overlooks the waterfront and marina in the heart of the shopping centre. It boasts 98 guest rooms incorporating deluxe and executive bedrooms and penthouse suites. The award-winning Bianconi Restaurant serves delicious, contemporary cuisine, using only the finest and freshest ingredients with an emphasis on local produce. Food is also on offer in the warmth of the Thomas Francis Meagher bar where you can experience the best in traditional hospitality and service. www.granville-hotel.ie

Waterford's beautiful coastlines are home to stunning scenery and beautiful historical sites but it is also home to electric festivals and world class restaurants and hotels.

How To Get There

From Cork approx 2 hours by car; from Belfast approx 4 hours by car and from Dublin, approx 2 hours 15 mins by car.

Essential Contacts

www.visitwaterford.com
www.discoverireland.ie



Destination Abroad:

Sicily

A vibrant, beautiful and colourful island located just off the toe of Italy's boot, Sicily has been a crossroads of cultures for thousands of years. From the majestic heights of Mount Etna, to the fascinating ruins in the Valley of the Temples, Sicily is a treasure chest of magnificent and stimulating sites.



Things to See & Do

For those in search of a destination steeped in culture, history and art, Agrigento is ideal. The city attracted poets like Simonides and Pynadar who described it as 'the most beautiful of mortal cities.' Valle dei Templi (The Valley of the Temples) is an outstanding example of Greater Greece art and architecture. Included in the UNESCO Heritage Site List since 1998, it boasts an extensive array of enchanting ruins such as the temples of Hera, Zeus and Asklepius.

Palermo, the capital of Sicily, is a lively city bursting with opportunities for adventure and discovery. In the past, Palermo has been under the control of numerous foreign powers including the Phoenicians, the Greeks, the Romans, the Normans and the Spanish Bourbons, to name but a few. The result of its quilted history is evident today in the vast range of architectural styles throughout the city. The Palatine Chapel, just one of the many examples of exquisite architecture in Palermo, has been described as 'a seemingly effortless fusion of all that is most brilliant in the Latin, Byzantine and Islamic traditions into a single harmonious masterpiece', and is certainly worth a visit. Other remarkable attractions not to be missed are the Catacombe dei Cappucini (the Capuchin Catacombs of Palermo), the Palermo Cathedral and La Vucciria (the most famous Palermo market).

Lying on the east coast of Sicily under the shadow of Mount Etna is the picturesque city of Catania. Home to a number of breathtaking ancient structures such as Ursino Castle, Duomo Square and a Roman amphitheatre, Catania is a wonderful combination of the ancient and modern. Its coastline consists of a number of stunning beaches, from sandy, to the rocks and gravel pebble beaches, there is something for everyone. Some particularly noteworthy beaches include the sandy Playa di Catania and Fiumefreddo as well as Riviera dei Ciclopi. Those who enjoy



spending carefree evenings by the sea shouldn't go without experiencing an organised party on the shores, often with internationally renowned DJs.

When visiting Catania, Mount Etna is undoubtedly a must-see. The gateway to the ascent of Mount Etna is the Rifugio Sapienza above the town of Nicolosi. There, you can buy a ticket to cover either just the first or all three stages to the top: the Funivia cable car takes you as far as the La Montagnola station (€7), a jeep runs from the top of the Funivia to the Torre del Filosofo (€1), and a guide will walk you up from here to as close to the top as it is currently safe to go. The vista from this height is extraordinary, certainly an experience not to be missed.

Not far from the grand slopes of Mount Etna is the tranquil enchanting town of Taormina, offering culturally compelling ancient buildings such as the Greek Theatre, the Odeon and the Palazzo Ciampoli within an area of extraordinary scenic beauty. Many interesting cultural events are held within Taormina. From 19th to 25th September the Taormina International

The Palatine Chapel, just one of the many examples of exquisite architecture in Palermo, has been described as ‘a seemingly effortless fusion of all that is most brilliant in the Latin, Byzantine and Islamic traditions into a single harmonious masterpiece.



THE PALATINE CHAPEL, PALERMO.

Book Festival will take place, and a wide range of operas, including La Bohème and the Carmen Suite, will be performed in the Greek Theatre.

Where to Stay

Belmond Grand Hotel Timeo, an exceptionally luxurious hotel located in the heart of Taormina, features a full-service spa, restaurant, outdoor pool and fitness centre. With views of Mount Etna and the Ionian Sea, and an ancient greek theatre next door, this is a truly outstanding five star hotel. www.belmond.com/grand-hotel-timeo-taormina

Hotel Villa Athena, Agrigento, is a truly luxurious hotel in the heart of the Valley of the Tombs. It has an outdoor pool surrounded by the beauty of the Villa's Park, and after sunset the moon illuminates the temples creating a truly relaxing and romantic atmosphere. www.hotelvillaathena.it

Centrale Palace Hotel, Palermo is a beautiful hotel in the heart of the city. Featuring a rooftop restaurant with stunning panoramic views, it is the perfect place to stay on a city break. www.centralepalacehotel.com

Where to Eat

From Michelin Star to family-run, there is a restaurant to suit all tastebuds in Sicily.

With both land and sea based cuisine, Al Fogher, Piazza Armerina is a creative and elegant family-run country restaurant that is well worth the detour inland. Offering beautiful dishes such as flan of Piacentio Salami in Nero d'Avola sauce aromatised with cocoa, or croquant red mullet fillet in yellow pepper sauce with pistachio sprinkled wild rice, this restaurant is a wonderful example of Sicilian cuisine.

If in search of fresh and local seafood cuisine, Al Duomo, Taormina is the one. This classic trattoria's terrace with views of Piazza Duomo is the perfect place to relax and indulge.



VALLE DEI TEMPLI.

Ristorante La Madia, Licata is an exceptional Sicilian based restaurant. Chef Pino Cuttaia's creative dishes, such as the Arancino (a fried rice ball - the classic sicilian street snack) in a sauce of red mullet and wild fennel, are delicious examples of fine-dining with an affectionate nod to the island's peasant traditions.

Getting There

There are three main airports in Sicily; Palermo, Catania and Trapani. Fly from Dublin to Palermo with Ryanair.

Essential Contacts

www.italia.it

Low Maintenance Gardening



The main question I get asked in garden consultations is ‘Can I have a no-maintenance garden?’ And my response is always the same. ‘There is no such thing as a no-maintenance garden, even if its covered with concrete, it would still need at least one annual maintenance.’

BY DEIRDRE PRINCE

Finding time to spend working in the garden is sometimes difficult to squeeze in when there are many work and life demands dragging us in all directions. If we do have some free time, wouldn't it be nice to spend it enjoying the garden, instead of always working in it? Low maintenance planting is a great way to start if you are new to gardening as the chances of failure are greatly reduced.

Many planted beds require weed control or lifting and dividing herbaceous perennials, so replacing them with shrubs which require less attention will definitely cut down on the work.

Make sure you apply a layer of mulch such as bark or gravel, which will make it harder for weed seedlings to take hold.

If you are eager to garden but would like to reduce the level of maintenance, avoid pots and containers as these will need regular watering and feeding. Equally, planting out summer flowering annuals is a yearly job and plants which require regular pruning will take up lots of time in maintenance so it's best to avoid these too. Even fast growing hedges, while they might seem like a good idea

at the garden centre, will eventually become unwieldy and will become a bigger maintenance job than they are worth. Choosing slower growing hedges will reduce the maintenance in the long run.

Lawns are by far the most labour intensive feature in a garden. There are some measures to reduce the work on a lawn, such as letting the grass and weeds grow long or allowing it to become a wildflower meadow. You could also consider turning the area over to paving or gravel. While I'm not an advocate of it, another solution is to replace it with an artificial turf.

There are some plants which are less needy than others and do not require as much attention. If you select less demanding plants, then there will be less back-breaking time and more leisure time spent in the garden.

Once you've selected a low maintenance planting scheme, the garden should need very little attention to keep it looking at its best. The key is to select the right plant, ensuring that the expected mature height and spread will not outgrow its space in the garden, otherwise, pruning may be necessary.





DEIRDRE'S FAVOURITE LOW MAINTENANCE PLANTS

Abelia x grandiflora (Fig.1). This is a semi-evergreen shrub which flowers every summer with pale pink fragrant bell-shaped flowers. It pretty much looks after itself, producing arching stems to about 1.8m high, in full sun or partial shade.

Allium (Fig.2). Dramatic globes of purple flower spikes appear on tall rigid stems in early summer. They are happy in well drained soils in full sun.

Thymus vulgaris / Common Thyme (Fig.3). Thyme is a bushy dwarf shrub, which has tiny dark-green, aromatic leaves with spikes of pale pink and purple flowers in early summer. This shrub grows to about 10cm high.

Nandina domestica / Sacred bamboo (Fig.4). Evergreen shrub with slender leaves and small white flowers in summer, followed by red berries in autumn. Nandina domestica grows to about 1.5m high at maturity and will survive in most soils but loves full sun locations.

Helleborus / Lenten Rose (Fig.5). These fully hardy herbaceous perennials are great plants for providing flowers in late winter and early spring. They are tough plants which are very forgiving of the neglectful gardener.

Magnolia stellata / Star Magnolia (Fig.6). This magnolia is a slow growing deciduous shrub, with luminous white star-shaped flowers appearing in early spring. It will survive in exposed sites in full sun or partial shade.

Clematis alpina (Fig.7). There are three different groups but it's the clematis in group 1 that don't need pruning. Clematis alpina is a steadfast climber, which has beautiful purple flowers in spring and will suit all soil types, in full sun or partial shade.

Phormium tenax / New Zealand flax (Fig.8). Evergreen shrub, with thick grass-like leaves, growing to about 4m height at maturity. It will survive in partial shade and exposed gardens.

Lavender (Fig.9). Is there ever a time when you can't recommend Lavender? Ok, well maybe if you have heavy clay soils, it probably won't survive. But if you have good draining soil, it is wonderful as a low informal hedge or as a specimen plant. Its fragrant evergreen leaves and purple flower spikes love full sun and bloom from May to July.

Geranium (Fig.10). Hardy geraniums are tough cookies and will flower for a couple of months at a time, from mid-summer to mid-autumn. They like all soil types and will thrive in part shade or full sun. A once a year chop will keep this plant in check.

ALL IMAGES BY DEIRDRE PRINCE

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Winner of gold medal and Best in Small Garden category
in Bloom 2012 in conjunction with Patricia Tyrrell.



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Style Icon

Ikono Lamp. 2013

Normann Copenhagen's Ikono lamp, designed by Simon Legald is a beautiful pendant lamp with a pure and simple feel. The iconic lamp has a cone-shaped glass cylinder and two coloured steel shades in matching tones which rest on the glass. Together, these features go to make up a classic pendant lamp. The light is directed by the top shade while the lower shade ensures anti-dazzle.

Ikono is based on the Danish lighting tradition, but the designer Simon Legald has stripped the design down to its essence and eliminated any unnecessary components and screws. The sharp edges of the shades are softened by curves where the shades meet the glass. The glass cylinder itself adds a visual lightness to the lamp. This gives Ikono both a graphic and soft feel.

Price: Available in two sizes, £140/€160 small and £280/€320 large.

Stockists: Phone Liberties, Westport 098 50273; Lost Weekend, Blackrock 01 2755818; Ubode, Dublin 01 7755251 and Maven, Belfast 028 9066 5176. www.normann-copenhagen.com



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